

**Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest
Carlsbad, New Mexico
April 22-24, 2014**

TEAM BRIEFING STATEMENT

You have arrived at the Silver Porcupine Mine, a remote underground silver mine located 70 miles west of Juneau, Alaska. The Silver Porcupine Mine, formerly known as the GO-T Mine was operated by Todd Hoffman Inc. as a full time conventional mining operation from 2010 until its closing in 2011. A safety consultant by the name of Fred Limps purchased the property in 2011 and decided to reopen the mine using two of the original shafts to develop into the ore bearing structures to the south and east of the old mine workings.

The Silver Porcupine Mine has a day and night crew. Each crew works 12 hours and consists of 6 miners. The mine is currently in a development stage and miners have been constructing permanent stoppings in various areas of the mine. The mine is currently working on sealing off all of the entries to the old workings, due to contaminated air that conflicts with the mechanical ventilation in the new development areas. We have been unable to locate the source of the contaminated air in the old works and due to dangerous ground conditions and lack of ground support the mine prohibits any access into these areas. We are also concerned that smoke from a surface wild land fires could have potential to contaminate the mine.

Shaft #1 is equipped with a 14-man cage and hoist system and serves as intake air and the primary escape way. Shaft #2 has a 48-inch (exhausting) fan offset at the top and will eventually serve as the secondary escape way as soon as the permanent cage and hoist system arrive. Shaft#2 also has a 5 man diesel powered auxiliary hoist but it is under repairs at this time. It is unknown exactly what equipment is underground at this time, we know for sure that there is an LHD, a single-boom roof bolter, possibly a haul truck, a man trip, and at least one spare electric pump.

At 6:00 a.m. this morning, a total of 5 miners entered the mine for day shift. Melody Tall (office assistant) remembered seeing the electrician Tony Volt leave the mine around lunch time. His brass tag along with four others is still on the "IN" side of the brass board. At 3:30 p.m. Melody noticed smoke exiting the #2 shaft. Melody contacted Don Burns who was waiting in the lamp room for shift change. Don told Melody to call MSHA and said he was going to turn off the fans and go into the mine. Melody said she told him that, that was not a good idea, but Don said his father Jack was down there and went anyway. It is now unknown exactly how many miners are in the mine at this time.

Just before you guys got here Tony Volt (Electrician) called to notify management that he was injured in a car accident off site, when he left the mine for lunch and that he is unable to return to work. He was asked if he knew anything about the smoke and began saying something about the sump pump and Femco phones, he was breaking up and the call was eventually dropped. We have not been able to call him back.

If you are ready and willing, the services of your mine rescue team are needed. It is now 5:30 p.m. and your team will be the first to enter the mine. Account for all missing Miners, Bring all live miners to surface, extinguish or seal any fires, and explore the entire active mine.