

# **2015 Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest**

## **Ruidoso, NM**

### **April 22, 2015**

#### **Team Briefing Statement**

You have arrived at the Big K mine, an underground potash mine that is owned and operated by Global Potash Inc. This is a room and pillar operation that was developed in the early 90's. The mine has been in a rehabilitation stage for 3 months due to a significant ground fall.

In addition to the rehab work the mine has recently installed a downcast airshaft on the Northeast side of the mine to provide additional ventilation. In conjunction with the rehab work, new development has begun north from the V Access #1 drift.

The mine currently operates one twelve hour shift which runs from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and operates from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays for maintenance work.

At 6:00 a.m. a five man crew entered the mine for rehabilitation and development work. At approximately 1:00 p.m. Maintenance Supervisor Jim Mule left the mine to lock and tag out the main sump pump controls on surface in efforts for sump area cleaning underground, while passing the exhaust shaft he noticed smoke exiting the shaft. Mr. Mule was not able to make contact with anyone underground via hand-held radio. He stated he believed that it would not be a good idea to shut down the fans or re-enter the mine, so he notified MSHA of the incident.

It is now 5:00 p.m. and you are the second team to enter the mine, team #1 was unable to locate any of the missing miners and based on the size of the mine was not able to completely explore the mine. Team #1 did request building materials and advanced the fresh Air Base inside the mine. We do not have any additional information at this time, we have requested that a map be provided for your team's entry, but we have not received it yet.

If you are ready and willing, the services of your mine rescue team are needed. We want you to map all accessible areas of the mine, account for all missing miners, and bring any live survivors to the fresh air base. The mine manager will be available at the fresh air base for any questions or requests. GOOD LUCK!