

Indiana Bureau of Mines Annual Report 2008

A Word from Governor Daniels

As operations and equipment have become more automated and computerized, coal mining has changed dramatically. Mine safety and health regulations and conscientious efforts by coal producers and miners have greatly reduced the occupational dangers traditionally associated with coal mining.

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace is the mission of the Indiana Department of Labor and Bureau of Mines. We are dedicated to providing miners with the best training, healthiest work environment, and safest facilities while maintaining standards of quality and excellence in our Indiana mines.



Governor



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Under the supervision of Commissioner of Labor, Lori A. Torres, the Indiana Bureau of Mines is staffed by Deputy Commissioner Donald "Blink" McCorkle, Chief Mine Inspector Steven E. Riley and the Indiana Mining Board. By law, the Commissioner of Labor is required to administer the Mine Safety Fund, adopt any necessary rules for the prevention of injuries and illnesses and forward the Annual Mining Report to the Indiana General Assembly. This report serves as the annual report that is required to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Commissioner on behalf of the board.

The mining community in the state is growing. By the end of 2009, there will be up to three additional underground mines in Indiana, bringing our total number of underground mines to nine. The state has two fully trained and qualified mine rescue teams. Gibson Mine and Black Beauty Coal Company also have mine rescue teams.

In 2008, the Indiana Department of Labor and Vincennes University were co-recipients of the federal Brookwood-Sago Grant. The grant provided additional training for our mine rescue teams. In addition, the grant allowed four Mine Emergency Response Drills to be designed and conducted. More information about this can be found on page four.

Indiana mines remain among the safest mines in the country. The average injury and illness rate for all mining in Indiana is 3.3. The national

average is 4.7 putting Indiana ahead of other states. Nevertheless, a single fatality was reported on June 3, 2008, at one Indiana mine. ZERO fatalities is the statistic we seek. Even one fatality is one too many.

Without the cooperation of the Indiana miners and coal operators, the goals that we set to ensure safety in the mines would be a tough task to accomplish. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those whose tireless efforts have made the working relationship between the Indiana Bureau of Mines and our underground coal mines a success towards safety.

Sincerely,



Donald "Blink" McCorkle, Deputy Commissioner
Indiana Bureau of Mines

<i>Indiana Mines and Statistics</i>	2
<i>Indiana Mine Rescue Team</i>	3
<i>Indiana Mining Board</i>	3
<i>Brookwood-Sago Grant</i>	4
<i>Licenses, Permits and Certifications</i>	5
<i>Message from the Commissioner</i>	5

Black Beauty Underground, Inc. Air Quality #1 Mine Monroe City, Indiana, Knox County Employees (369 coal miners)	Reportable accidents-12	Lost time accidents-9
Black Beauty Coal Co. Francisco Mine Francisco, Indiana, Gibson County Employees (126 coal miners)	Reportable accidents-4	Lost time accidents-2
Five Star Mining, Inc. Prosperity Mine Petersburg, Indiana, Pike County Employees (384 coal miners)	Reportable accidents-22	Lost time accidents-19
Gibson County Coal, LLC Gibson Mine Princeton, Indiana, Gibson County Employees (300 coal miners)	Reportable accidents-22	Lost time accidents-9
Sunrise Coal Company Carlisle Mine Carlisle, Indiana, Sullivan County Employees (177 coal miners)	Reportable accidents-17	Lost time accidents-14
Triad Underground Mining Freelandville Mine Edwardsport, Indiana, Knox County Employees (60 coal miners)	Reportable accidents-0	Lost time accidents-0

Indiana Active Underground Coal Mines as of December 2008
(165 mine inspections were conducted in 2008)

**Annual Statistics Report for 2008
Underground Mining in Indiana**

<u>Mine</u>	<u>Tons of Clean Coal Produced</u>	<u>Coal Seam*</u>
Air Quality #1 Mine	1,880,506 Tons/Clean Coal	#7
Carlisle Mine	1,933,404 Tons/Clean Coal	#5
Francisco Mine	1,540,373 Tons/Clean Coal	#5
Freelandville Mine	663,423 Tons/Clean Coal	#5
Gibson Mine	3,826,101 Tons/Clean Coal	#5
Prosperity Mine	2,378,120 Tons/Clean Coal	#5
TOTAL COAL MINED	12,221,927 Tons/Clean Coal	#5

* A coal seam is a stratum or bed of coal layered throughout the earth's strata. Each number identifies a different seam of coal.

A fully equipped mine rescue station is housed under the supervision of the Indiana Bureau of Mines at Vincennes University. The station consists of an emergency mine rescue van that has the materials to fully equip and maintain two mine rescue teams. The van is also a mobile work station, enabling the equipment to be maintained online and functioning properly while at any emergency site. In 2008, the state had two trained mine rescue teams who not only train to meet, but to exceed, the minimum requirements. The teams are required to compete in at least two competitive mine rescue contests each year. These contests train the teams for response in actual emergency situations, which range from mine fires, explosions, floods, roof falls and the recovery of trapped miners as well as recovery of the mine. We have dedicated volunteers from Indiana that make up the mine rescue teams. They train knowing that they may put their lives on the line for their fellow miners.

2008 Mine Rescue Team Members

Steve Riley (Indiana Bureau of Mines)
 Cory Baker (Prosperity Mine)
 Shane Meadows (Prosperity Mine)
 Scott Kent (Prosperity Mine)
 Tory Hinton (Prosperity Mine)
 David Roach (Prosperity Mine)
 Rick Bolding (Prosperity Mine)
 Troy Goodman (Freelandville Mine)
 Joby Johnson (Freelandville Mine)
 Jeremy Robertson (Freelandville Mine)
 George Moore (Freelandville Mine)
 Dennis Parker (Carlisle Mine)
 Joseph Hartley (Carlisle Mine)
 John Moore (Carlisle Mine)
 Neil Chambers (Carlisle Mine)



“Mine rescue is the most demanding work you will ever do, but by its’ very nature, it has to be!”

~Author Unknown

Members of the Indiana Mining Board

Tim Emmons, Chairman
John Stachura
Bob Mowery
Chris Whitehead
Terry Mooney



Appointed to a four-year term by the Governor, the Indiana Mining Board has many responsibilities including quarterly certification examinations in the classifications of Mine Foreman, Mine Examiner, Belt Examiner, Hoisting Engineer and Shot Firer. Responsibilities also include issuing discipline or revocation of the issued licenses. Other duties are collecting and distributing information concerning the nature, causes and preventions of mine accidents and the improvement of methods, conditions and equipment in the mines. The Mining Board exercises its authority to require mines to provide adequate personnel for the Indiana Mine Rescue Teams. Duties and powers of the Mining Board are stipulated in Indiana Code 22-10-1.5-5.

Brookwood-Sago Grant

In 2008, the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Vincennes University were able to offer extraordinary instruction opportunities in mine emergency training. As part of the continuing commitment that the Indiana Bureau of Mines has in preparing its mine rescue teams and coal mine management with appropriate readiness, the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Vincennes University were co-recipients of a Brookwood-Sago Grant for \$50,000 in late 2007.

The training opportunities included a mock command center, so that mine management and the state and federal regulatory agencies could become accustomed to working together. Knowing when to activate an emergency response plan, deal with media, families, security and other details required during an actual emergency were also discussed during training. Other training involved the utilization of the Vincennes Township Fire Department for a confined space drill in dealing with smoke-filled entries, tight quarters and partner communication. Additional training took place for practice using firefighting equipment that would be used underground, use of Hilti guns and virtual computer training. Commercial Training Solutions of Orlando, Florida programmed mine disaster scenarios, which included smoke, unsafe roof, gasses, a mine fire, rescue operations for fatalities and live persons and more. The team members worked at each computer station as if they were actually in the coal mine.

The trainings provided an opportunity for mine rescue teams to work underground and practice on a training field above ground, and also gave in depth command center training in both a laboratory setting as well as on site at a coal mine. The depth of the training was particularly noteworthy and was coordinated and designed by Vincennes University and the Bureau of Mines in cooperation with the Peabody Midwest Training Center and private vendors.

Indiana was so successful at creating and implementing this training program that other states throughout the country are modeling their grant proposals after Indiana's unique and excellent 13-month long training schedule.



Certification Examinations

The Mining Board administers the certification tests the second Saturday of the first month of each quarter — January, April, July and October. The study guides for the testing are on computer disks. Disks are available at each mine and are updated as needed. The tests include a ventilation map, questions on topics such as mine gases, roof control, mining laws, first aid, ventilation, general mining practices and formulas for calculation of air velocity, along with questions on the Self Contained Self Rescuer (SCSR) and its use. Two practical parts of the test include an air reading, with the proper equipment and a gas test, with proper detector, which must be taken by each applicant at the conclusion of the written test. The tests are graded electronically except for the ventilation map, which is hand graded.

Number of Permits and Certifications Issued in 2008

<u><i>Permit/License/Certification Issued</i></u>	<u><i>Number Issued</i></u>
Miner's Permits issued	262
Miner's Licenses issued	217
Mine Foreman	61
Mine Examiner	12
Belt Examiner	8
Hoisting Engineer	12
Shot Firer	2
TOTAL	574

Indiana Bureau of Mines

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safety, health and
prosperity of Hoosiers
in the workplace*

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A Message from the Indiana Commissioner of Labor



*Lori Torres
Commissioner*

Greetings. On behalf of Governor Daniels, the Indiana Department of Labor and the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety, this annual report is compiled specifically for the members of the General Assembly, but also for use by the coal industry and those associated with the coal industry. Despite the contracting nature of the national economy presently, the coal industry continues to prosper. With more than a million more tons of clean coal produced in 2008 over 2007 and nearly 15% more Hoosiers employed at Indiana coal mines, there is cause to be hopeful that this bountiful Indiana resource will continue to provide good, high paying and safe jobs for Hoosiers. There is and will continue to be a real need for more coal miners. With potentially three more underground mines becoming ready for production in 2009 and 2010, the need for well trained underground miners is real. The information contained in this report shows a thriving coal economy with a proactive government investing in the safety, training and certification of all miners. Indiana continues to be a leader in collaborating with Indiana mine operators, Vincennes University, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), neighboring states and the Indiana Coal Council to truly advance the safety, health and prosperity of underground mining in Indiana.

Very truly yours,

Lori Torres