

Mine Management Statement

Thanks for coming to the Silver Diablo Mine. I am the watchman and wish I had more to tell you than I do. When I heard we had a fire, I rushed over to the mine office and Bill Stator, mine manager, was having a heart attack. He just left in the ambulance and was totally non-responsive when I last saw him. Before he passed out, Bill just wanted to make sure MSHA was notified and mine rescue teams were notified.

I know there are six souls tagged in at the brass board but that may not be right. I have no idea where they would be or what they would have been doing. They have only been working on the 500 level.

The conditions on the surface are obvious - heavy smoke is coming out of the portal. The fan is running at the collar and we have it guarded. A hoist man is available and is manning the main hoist. We have not heard from anyone underground.

I know MSHA is en-route and they said we can send in teams when they show up and are ready. MSHA said they want the first team underground to explore all accessible areas of the mine, attempt to extinguish all fires, locate all miners (alive or not), and bring all live miners to the surface.

Good Luck!