

**Team Briefing
New Iberia, LA
May 2013**

Thank you for coming to help at the Winchester Mine. You are the first rescue team to arrive and several other teams should be here within the next few minutes.

The second shift crew usually comes out of the mine by 11:30 p.m. unless there are problems. General mine superintendent, Joe Sims, contacted me at 1:30 a.m. to say that three miners on the second shift crew did not all make it out of the mine after a blasting mishap. He also said smoke was exiting the west shaft.

Joe was able to speak with his father, Ken Sims, about 1:35 a.m. Ken said he was okay but he didn't know if others were so lucky. Ken said he could not talk any longer from his pager phone because the air was really bad. Ken's last words to his son were to "turn off the darn fan - that may help us," then all contact was lost and Joe hasn't spoken with anyone since. Joe said he did turn the fan off. Smoke is now exiting the west shaft and east decline. The smoke has been very heavy at times.

We have accounted for all but the three missing miners. Joe suspects that this may have something to do with an abandoned mine we were approaching at entry 3 in the current production faces. The mine maps indicate that we are still about 50 feet away from the old workings.

There are now five other trained and fully equipped mine rescue teams on site. The mine power is ON but the mine fan is OFF. The mine fan controls are located on the fan just inside the entrance of the east decline.

All federal, state and local agencies have been notified.

If you are ready and willing, the services of your mine rescue team are greatly needed. It is now 2:50 a.m. and your team will be the first to enter the mine. We want you to account for the three missing miners, extinguish or seal any fires, and map all accessible areas of the mine.

Mine manager Big John will be in his office waiting to hear from you and will personally review your rescue and recovery plans as they become available.