

2014 Robert Earl Jones Mine Rescue Contest Statement

Welcome to High Caliber Coal Co. We appreciate your help.

Last night on the midnight shift, a 7 man crew went into this section to finish mining a small block of coal that had been left over from when we were mining in this area several years ago. This part of the mine is about mined out and we are just punching where we can until our East mains are developed. The mine manager had not heard from this section for a while and they had not called out their mid-shift footage so he went in to see what was going on. The mine manager encountered low oxygen on the travel way so he stopped and called outside for help. He said that the air was too unsafe for him to go any further and he wanted rescue teams summoned immediately. He has since been in the command center trying to help from there. The rest of the mine has been evacuated and the first team to arrive has established fresh air to this point. Other fully equipped teams are on site to serve as your backup. All agencies are on site and medical assistance is here if you find any of our miners. Our fan chart did not indicate any unusual pressures and no one out by heard or felt anything out of the ordinary. We don't know what happened. Our mine height is about seven feet and we are usually pretty dry. Methane will accumulate quickly if we don't keep our curtains up. The surveyors said we should be about 200 feet from any old workings, but they are a young crew. We hope they are correct.

The exhausting fan is running and supplying the air across the fresh air base here. It cannot be turned off or reversed. A full supply of material was delivered to this unit last shift, so all of the material you need should be here.