

2014 Illinois State Mine Rescue Contest Statement

Welcome to Old Squirrel Coal Co. We appreciate your help.

Last night on the midnight shift, a 6 man crew went into this section to continue mining a three entry long wall head gate panel. The mine manager has 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 water roofed in the No. 1 and No. 2 entries so he stopped and called outside for help. He said that he could not go any further and feared the worse. He said 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 but encounter water on occasion. Methane will accumulate quickly if we don't keep our curtains up. The unit is going through an area where the mine roof is not very good. The surveyors said we should be about 200 feet from any old workings, but they are a young crew. We hope they are correct.

There is a 10 foot diameter shaft located in the No. 3 entry in "A" crosscut. This shaft has an exhausting fan located offset from the shaft and is not in operation yet. The shaft doors and explosion doors are closed and have the shaft sealed off to prevent air exchange. The fan could be available later in the shift, but once started it cannot be turned off or reversed. The air coming across the fresh air base is provided by an exhausting fan which cannot be shut 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.