

**Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest
Carlsbad, NM
April 11, 2007**

TEAM BRIEFING STATEMENT

You have arrived at the New Mexico #1 Mine, a small underground operation that opened in July, 2004. It is owned and operated by New Mexico Mining Company of Taos, New Mexico. The New Mexico #1 Mine is a single level adit mine which mines molybdenum. The mining process which is used is the block and cave method of mining. Ore is drilled, shot and gravity fed or hauled to the main grizzly located north of the #1 Shaft. The mine can be entered via the south entrance which is 7,000 feet above sea level. Fresh air is coursed into the mine via the main entry which slopes down to an elevation of 6, 500 feet in the northwest corner of the mine.

The #1 Shaft is a 300-foot vertical shaft into the mine which is used primarily for hauling ore out of the mine. This vertical shaft is approximately ten foot in diameter and is located in the exhaust airway just south of the main grizzly. Mine air is exhausted from the mine by way of a 100 horse power fan located on the surface adjacent to the #1 Shaft. Provisions have been made for miners to escape from the mine on top of the skip located in #1 Shaft. Space on the skip is limited and there is only enough room for 4 men to ride at a time. There is also an exploration bore hole to the surface located at the further most part of the mine. The bore hole is three feet in diameter and is used to ventilate that portion of the mine. There is no way to travel the bore hole at this time, but plans are being made to install a rescue bullet at a later date.

Roof conditions in the mine are normally good. There has been a problem with water seepage in the mine. Water has been issuing through the strata but a sump in the north end of the mine has kept this under control.

The New Mexico Mine #1 works two shifts per day. Seven miners work underground from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with a 30-minute break at 11:30 a.m. Three support personnel work a maintenance shift from 5:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. with a 30-minute break at 9:00 p.m. Normal duties include hauling supplies and general clean-up.

At 11:20 p.m., Doug Smith called outside on the mine phone at the bottom of #1 Shaft. He said that he heard a loud boom and thought he saw an electrical arc jump from one of the guides in the shaft to the framework of the feed conveyor. He said that he tried to extinguish the belt fire but was unable to, so he was going to find the other two miners and head out of the mine. No one has heard from any of the miners since 11:20 p.m. The other two miners that are missing are Ben Thair and Roger Ramcar. Power to the mine was turned off to alert the miners of the emergency. The main fan switch was accidentally turned off by the hoist operator in his haste to kill electrical power.

MSHA was notified at 11:30 p.m. and is currently on site. Three mine rescue teams have arrived and are ready to go underground.

If you are ready and willing, the service of your mine rescue team is needed. It is now 12:45 p.m. and you will be the first team to enter the mine.

We want you to extinguish or seal any fires, account for all missing miners, and map all accessible areas of the mine.

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MINE INFORMATION

BACKUP TEAM(S)	Two, fully equipped backup mine rescue teams have arrived and are available should you need them. Additional teams are en route.
EXPLOSIVES	Explosives are available and stored on the surface.
ELECTRICITY	A 4160 Volt power line enters the mine by way of a lined borehole. The line feeds a non-permissible power center which is used to power the permanent pump and a circuit center located near the working face. Currently the underground power is turned off at the surface.
GAS	The mine has a non-gassy mine classification.
GEOLOGY	The New Mexico #1 Mine is located in the San Juan Mountains northwest of Taos. All of the development to date has been driven with consistent heights. The seam undulates throughout the mine. Mine entries are normally mined 7' high and 10' wide.
MATERIALS	All materials to work the problem are located underground or on the surface at the fresh air base and are identified by placards.
MINE MAPS	The mine map was last updated on January 15, 2007.
MINING EQUIPMENT	Conventional mining utilizing hand held drills. Ore is hauled by two 913 Eimco LHD's which are currently located on the surface. Supplies are hauled in the buckets of the LHD's.
NOTIFICATION	All federal, state, and local officials have been notified.
OTHER MINES	There are no other mines in the area.
PHONES	Mine communication consists of walkie-talkies carried by the supervisors and one located in the surface hoist/rusher control room.
REFUGE CHAMBERS	None available at this time.
ROOF SUPPORT	Point-anchor resin bolts are used in varying lengths for primary roof support. Wooden posts are planned for secondary support.

VENTILATION

One 60-inch diameter Joy axi-vane fan, capable of exhausting 50,000 cfm is used to ventilate the mine. The fan is not reversible and is controlled from the surface. The fan is off.

EXHAUST SLOPE

A 10-foot diameter shaft has been developed to accommodate the exhaust fan for ventilating the mine.

WATER

A stationary non-permissible pump with suction line and an auxiliary sump have been installed at the north end of the mine. The pump is used to pump water out of the mine. The pump is powered from the underground power center. The discharged water is pumped through a 6-inch lined borehole into a treatment lake. The pump has the capability of discharging approximately 50,000 gallons per day. Currently the mine pumps out only 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of water per day.

AIR LINES

There is a 2 inch airline in the mine which runs from the South portal of the mine to a location approximately 30 feet south of the #1 Shaft. The air line is equipped with several 1 inch air valves which is used to run the pneumatic drills used in the mining process.

