

The KEMI Mine Safety & Training Competition **Problem # 1**

Mine Rescue Contest 2009

Directors:

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Sponsored by:

KEMI

Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance

WRITTEN STATEMENT

Please introduce judges

I am Sam Akers, Superintendent of the Sometimes We Mine Coal Company, Number 2 Mine. We are standing at the fresh air base of the #12 Pillar panel. This panel was finished recently and crews were moving equipment and conveyor belt from the area. We presently have air flowing across the fresh air base from number one entry to the #3 return entry.

We have had a problem and appreciate your answering our call for help. Approximately ninety-five hours ago, on the second shift, a recovery crew of nine men entered the mine to start a recovery of the belt drive and pillar panel equipment. At mid-shift on that day, the dispatcher received a call from the recovery crew at the belt drive stating it had caught fire while doing work with torches to recover the belt drive. All attempts to extinguish the fire had failed. The belt drive recovery crew had made their way to the pillar panel recovery crew and according to the last communication we had with them had tried to escape but could not due to heat and smoke. Also, in this communication to the dispatcher the nine men were headed to the recovery refuge shelter which is located just in a dog-leg entry near the pillared panel. Since that time we attempted to get to the refuge shelter and a mine rescue team traveled up the backside of the pillared panel and got near the shelter but had to turn back due to heat, visibility in dense smoke and the limitations of the rescue teams oxygen supply. The pillared panel and entries on the backside have been explored as depicted on the map you will receive. Presently we have the #2 mine rescue team working in smoke in the entries on the backside of this panel pumping water so we may make another attempt from that side. If you need them to do ventilation work they will be available.

We had changed ventilation on this panel to allow us to move to a different area of this mine. This was the last panel in this part of the mine and we had planned on sealing the 12 panels after we recovered the equipment. Prior to the ventilation change we had approximately 40,000 CFM going across the pillaring area and approximately 20,000 CFM of that was coursed down the return entries through a regulator, R5, into the West Mains return. Also prior to the ventilation change we had intake entries leading to the panel which supplied air from the secondary belt/track entry to help ventilate the pillaring works. In making the ventilation change the regulator leading to the West Main return was closed and we installed an intake regulator, R6, to limit air for the recovery process. R6 is open to the intake and previous belt entry. This mine is ventilated by a fan that exhausts approximately 600,000 CFM. We also make approximately 3,000,000 cubic feet of methane per day. The exhaust fan cannot be de-energized or reversed.

We have fought the fire going up the three entries on this side and have reached this point. We are certain there is still a fire inby here. We are within five crosscuts of the refuge shelter where we think the miners are located. We have done some calculations on the air in the refuge shelter and we believe they have about one hour of oxygen left. We want you to try and get to the shelter and rescue these missing miners as quickly as possible. We have had problems with water accumulations near the refuge shelter location. The only power energized is power to the pump switch located here at the fresh-air base. The pump is presently off with no power inby this point.

We have at least two other mine rescue teams here as back-up.

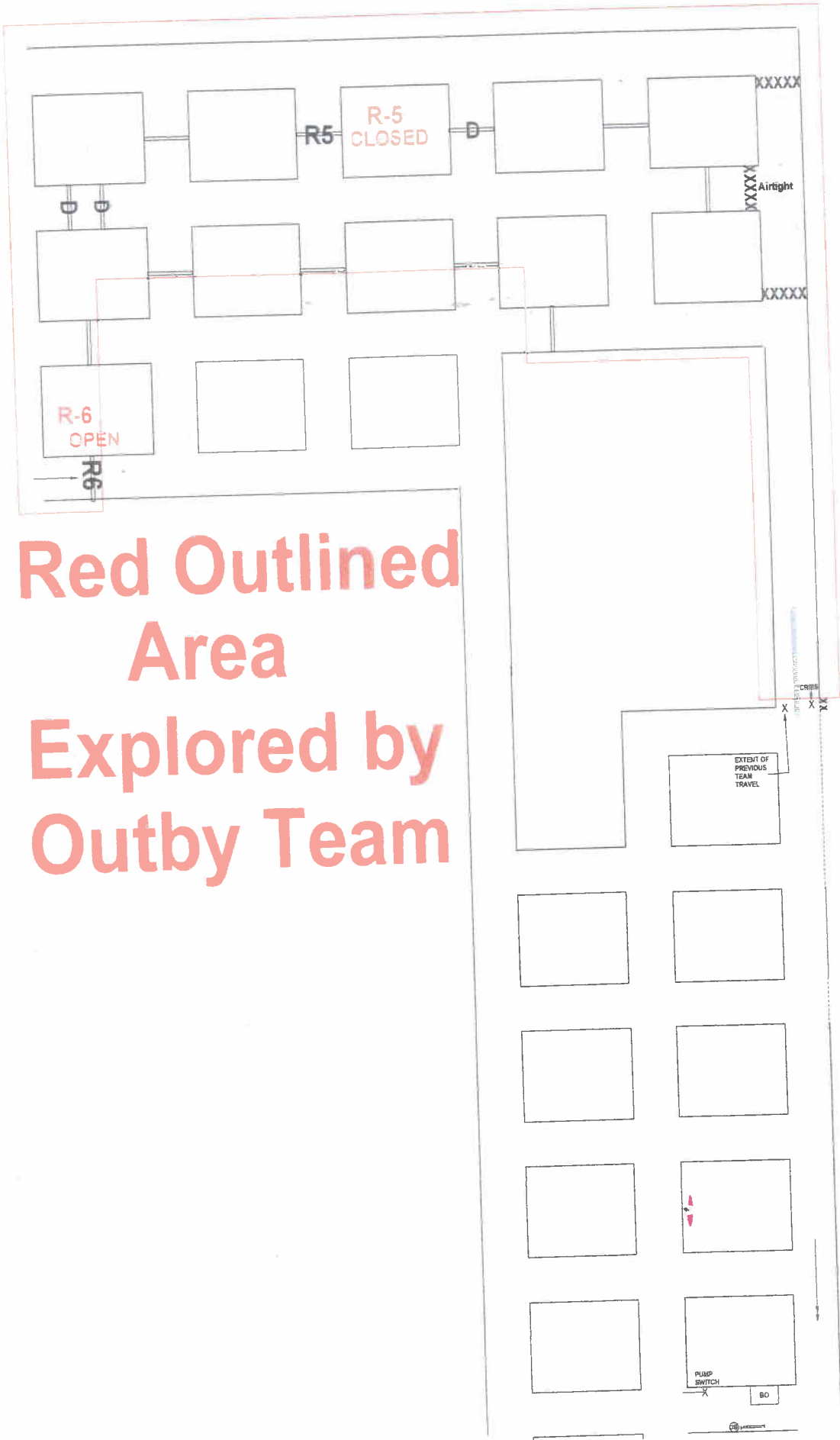
All necessary MSHA and State officials are on site with representative located in the command center.

A competent lifeline judge is on hand. (Please identify.)

A map and problem will be provided when you are ready.

PROBLEM

RESCUE ALL MISSING MINERS



**Red Outlined
Area
Explored by
Outby Team**

