

# Office of Mine Safety & Licensing

## A Word from the Executive Director

As you may know, I will be retiring effective close of business Dec. 30, 2011. I have sincerely enjoyed my tenure with the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing. During my 21 years with the agency, I have served as an underground mine safety analyst, mine inspector, assistant district supervisor, district supervisor, deputy chief accident investigator, mine rescue coordinator and executive director. I have been afforded the privilege to work with some of the industry's finest people.



I would like to thank Governor Beshear and the commissioner of the Department for Natural Resources for their continued support for mine safety. The district supervisors in which I have been given the opportunity to work with possess a vast array of knowledge and experience when it comes to coal mining. These outstanding men are Ricky Johnson, Barbourville District; George Johnson, Harlan District; Dave Mullins, Hazard District; Ronnie Drake, Madisonville District; Randy Smith, Martin District; and Mike Elswick, Pikeville District. Each supervisor has done an exceptional job in managing their district. The administrative staff in Frankfort has been so supportive. I appreciate their dedication to team work. I simply cannot find the words to adequately express my appreciation for all the support I have received during my time as the executive director of the agency.

My only regret as I leave the agency is the fact that I did not see a year in which the industry had zero mining fatalities. I would like to personally charge the person who is appointed as the executive director of the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing to take every measure possible to see this goal accomplished. Although we have not seen a zero-fatality year, I am confident our work as an agency has saved lives. We must always strive to keep our mission, which is to ensure every coal miner returns home safely at the end of each day, at the forefront of our minds.

As I leave, please know my thoughts and prayers will always be with the agency and our KY coal miners.



### KY EEC DNR

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#### Our Mission

To ensure that all coal miners in the Commonwealth are provided with a safe working environment; to provide effective education and training to coal miners to foster safe work practices; and to ensure that statutes and regulations regarding coal mining are enforced fairly and consistently throughout the Commonwealth.

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# Hurricane Creek Disaster Memorial Service

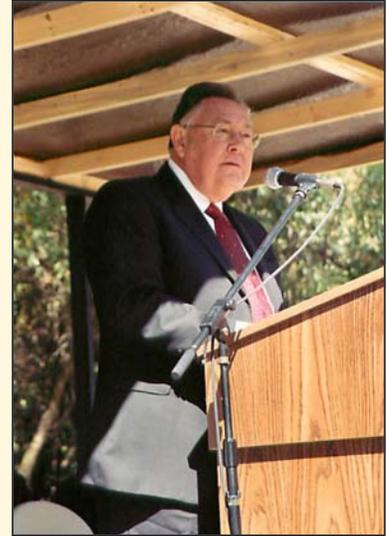
*By Michelle Nevels, Office of Mine Safety & Licensing*

On Oct. 8, 2011 the KY Historical Society (KHS) dedicated a historical marker and statue to memorialize the Hurricane Creek Mine Disaster. The disaster occurred on Dec. 30, 1970. On this date, the Finley Coal Mine in Leslie County, KY suffered a deadly explosion, ignited by coal dust in two mine shafts of the mine. This explosion caused the deaths of 38 miners with only one survivor, A. T. Collins, who was expelled from the mine.

A number of officials attended the ceremony. Leslie Co. Judge/Executive Jimmy Sizemore; Rep. Tim Couch, who sponsored legislation for the monument; Harlan Co. Judge/ Executive Joe Grieshop; and Clay Co. Judge/Executive Joe Asher recognized the names of each miner who died in the disaster. Dr. Len Peters, Secretary of Energy and Environment Cabinet attended as the keynote speaker for the ceremony and Ken Whitworth of KHS presented the unveiling of the historical marker.



*Photo courtesy of Leslie Co Judge's Office*



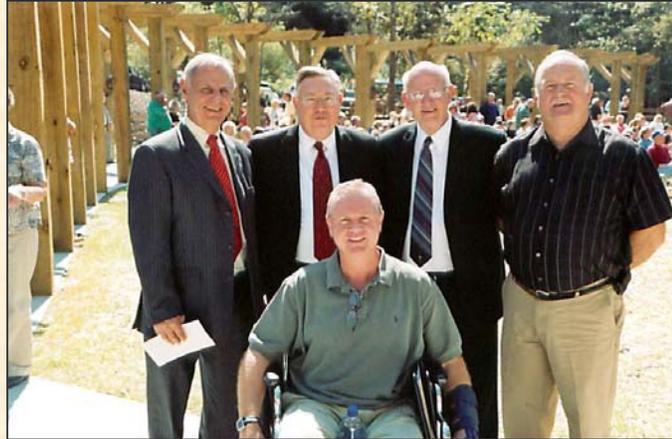
*Secretary Leonard Peters, Keynote Speaker for the Hurricane Creek Disaster Memorial Service at Hyden, KY.*



*Above: Employees of Bledsoe Coal Company unveil statue.*

The calamity happened nearly one year after the passage of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which provided the framework for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The 1970 Hurricane Creek mine disaster continues to be the worst mine fatality on record for Kentucky's history. Today, Kentucky's mines are much safer than in the past. The Office of Mine Safety and Licensing continually works to educate the mining industry in safe mining practices and miner education.

## Hurricane Creek Disaster Memorial Service *(Continued from Page 2)*



*Pictured from left to right: Joe Grieshop (Harlan Co. Judge/Executive), Secretary Leonard Peters, Jimmy Sizemore (Leslie Co. Judge/Executive), Joe Asher, (Clay Co. Judge/Executive)*

*In front: Rep. Tim Couch*

*Miners recognized at the ceremony are pictured above and below.*



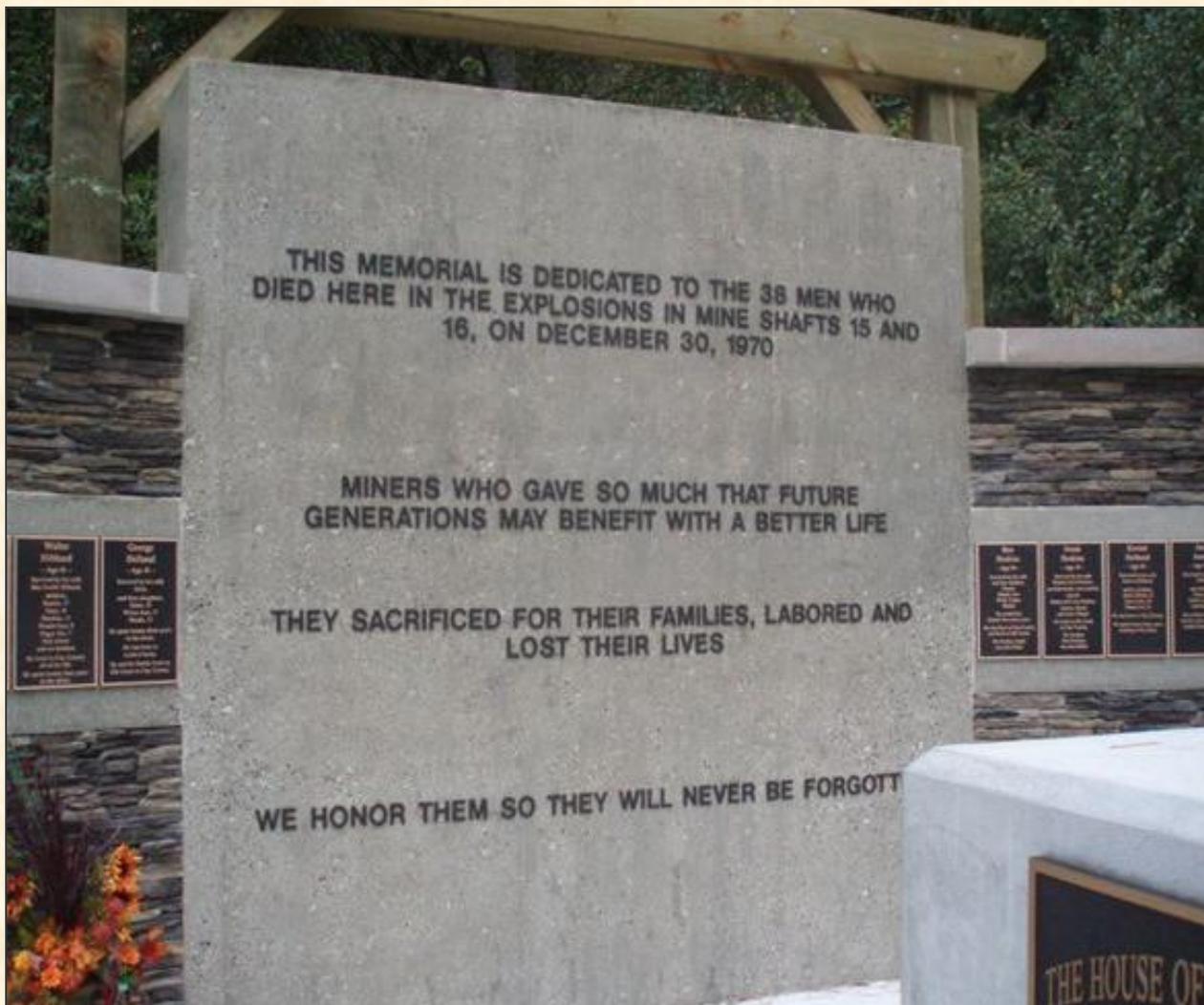
*Nearly 300 people attended the memorial service held at Hurricane Creek on Oct. 8, 2011.*

# HURRICANE CREEK DISASTER MEMORIAL PHOTO TOUR



# HURRICANE CREEK DISASTER MEMORIAL

## PHOTO TOUR *(Continued from Page 4)*



# OMSL Mine Rescue Contest

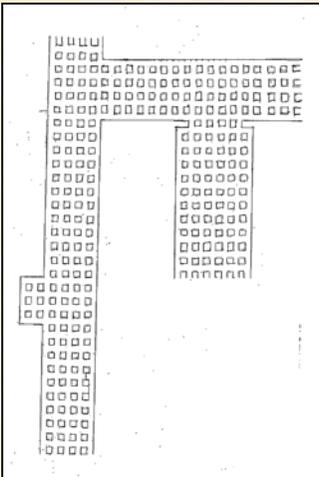
*By Ronnie Drake, OMSL Mine Rescue Coordinator*

Each year the KY Office of Mine Safety and Licensing (OMSL) mine rescue teams compete in a training exercise much different from the MSHA required competitions. Several years ago OMSL determined that there was a need for a higher level of realistic mine emergency training to prepare our teams for actual situations that would require mine rescue teams to respond to the mines. It was also determined that all of our teams should be trained identically, so that in an emergency requiring an extended rescue or recovery, we could mix our team members from all across the six OMSL districts and still ensure that each team was consistent in their training and procedures.



*Ronnie Drake is the OMSL District Supervisor in Madisonville, KY and the OMSL Mine Rescue Coordinator.*

Because of this objective, the *OMSL Mine Rescue Trainer's Manual* was developed and placed in use by the trainers in each district. Later, the *OMSL Command Center Manual* was developed to assist with the training of the command center teams in each district. In 2008 the KY State Mine Rescue Rules were developed to allow a competition utilizing OMSL methods of rescue and recovery which included both the underground team and the command center teams being judged by the contest rules and principals of mine rescue.



*Example of map used in rescue drills*

Since the MSHA ruled contests are conducted on simulated mine fields that are usually approximately 80 feet wide by 130 feet long, it was necessary to come up with a area to practice and compete that would more closely resemble a mine in size and layout. Three OMSL Mine rescue fields have been developed that utilize approximately 23 acres each, allowing teams to work simulated emergencies while dealing in real time frames.

This year's competition was divided into three days where underground teams along with their respective command center team worked a simulated disaster. The competition began on Oct. 24 on the Leslie County Field with the Barbourville district team led by District Supervisor Rick Johnson and the Hazard district team with District Supervisor Dave Mullins in the command center. On Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> the competition continued with the Pikeville district team with Mike Elswick in the command center and the Martin district team led by District Supervisor Randy Smith and the Harlan district team with District Supervisor George Johnson in the command center. The competition concluded on November 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Hopkins County field with the Madisonville district team led by District Supervisor Ronnie Drake.

During the working of the problems the teams encountered high levels of carbon monoxide, low levels of oxygen and indications of an explosion evidenced by destroyed ventilation controls. As the teams explored the mine areas, they were required to map conditions of the mine while trying to locate the 15 missing miners.

The teams were judged by trained judges who scored the underground team and the command center team on their compliance with the rules, the principals of mine rescue, and their problem solving skills. All of the team scores have been tallied and the results will be announced at the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> staff meeting at the Frankfort Office. Good Luck to all of the District Teams!

# OMSL Interagency Mine Rescue Competition



Map Judges



Fresh Air Judge



Fresh Air Base



Command Center



Mine Safety Team Member



Reviewing Mine Map



Apparatus Checks



Working Problem



Advancing Stretcher



Team Captain



Mountain Fresh Air Base

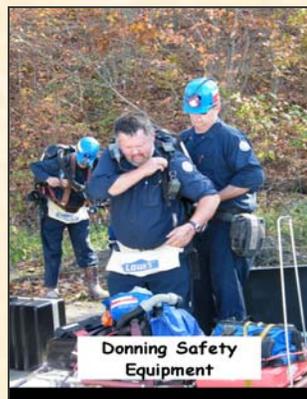


Feeding Multitudes

# OMSL Mine Rescue Contest *(Continued from Page 6)*

## District Participants for Mine Rescue Contest

<u>Barbourville</u>	<u>Harlan</u>	<u>Hazard</u>	<u>Madisonville</u>	<u>Martin</u>	<u>Pikeville</u>
Ricky Johnson	George Johnson	Dave Mullins	Ronnie Drake	Randal Smith	Mike Elswick
Ralph Crawford	Todd Middleton	Bob Banks	James Tabor	Jack Bartley	Tony Casebolt
Gene Adams	Joey Morgan	Randy Campbell	William Millay	John Gregory Collins	Brad Fuller
Walter Brumley	Mike Thomas	Ernie Campbell	Chris Ashby	Orville Mitchell Jr.	Randy Bently
Dean Bush	James Strunk	Gary Fugate	Kenny Mitchell	Freddie Moore	Greg Phipps
Bobby Hubbard	Bill Allen	Daniel Bentley	Lee Vincent	Danny Hurt	Glen Mace
Jake Lawson	John Dixon	Jeff Brock	Bradley Thomas	Adam Akers	James Tackett
Johnny Morgan	Tim Pennington	Tim Burns	Charles Maddox	Nathan Moore	E.B. Sanders
Mike Partin	Jim Owens	Jerry Back	Richard Matherny	Jimmy Slone	Dennis Akers
Randy Partin	Ernie Hawkins	David Maggard	Rodney James	Garland Kidd	Donnie Akers
Doug Roark	Mike Johnson	Rodney Eversole	Bill Perkins	Casey Mollett	Johnny Stiltner
James Skidmore	Larry Reynolds	T.K. Hays	Bill Blalock	Elbert D. Howell	Rodney Bentley
Randy Turner	Roger Boggs	Mike Eldridge	Eric Nichols		Terry Coleman



# 2011 National Mine Rescue, Bench, First Aid and Pre-shift Competition



By Michelle Nevels, Office of Mine Safety and Licensing

## KY Ranks Up

The 2011 National Mine Rescue, Bench, First-Aid and Pre-shift Competition was held in Columbus, Ohio during Oct. 3–6, 2011, in which 102 teams competed. Kentucky teams represented 20 of the competing teams and of those KY teams, five ranked in the top 10 for mine rescue performance. Alpha Natural Resources–Black Mountain White Team ranked first place overall. Webster County Coal, Dotiki team scored an overall score of five. See table for a complete listing for all KY’s placing mine rescue teams.

Mine Rescue	
KY Team Participating	Rank
Alpha Nat. Resources - Black Mountain White Team	1
Webster County Coal- Dotiki	5
Alpha Natural Resources- Black Mountain Blue Team	6
Teco Coal- Blue Team	7
Patriot Coal- Bluegrass Team	9
James River Coal - Gray Team	13
Teco Coal- Gray Team	14
Patriot Coal - Highland #9	15
James River Coal - Blue Team	17
Hopkins County Coal- Elk Creek	26
Alpha Natural Resources- East KY Team	27
Riverview Coal- Riverview Team	41
KY Coal Academy- MCC Team	43
Excel Mining- Excel Team	57
Arch Coal- Knott County White	66
Warrior Coal- Cardinal Team	69
Arch Coal- Flint Ridge Blue Team	82
Arch Coal- Knott County Blue Team	85
Sapphire Coal- Sapphire Team	88



Photos courtesy of U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration

## New Hires

Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2011

### *Martin District*



Tommy Bays  
Mine Inspector I



Eddie Combs  
Mine Inspector I

### *Pikeville District*



Johnny McHone  
Mine Inspector I



James Byrum  
Mine Inspector I

### *Madisonville District*

### *Harlan District*



David Brock  
Mine Safety Analyst I

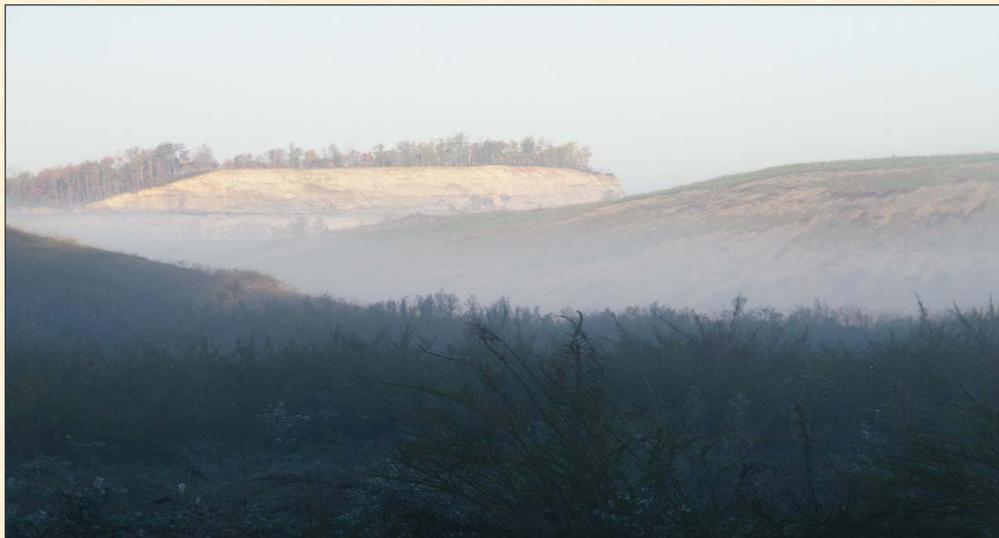


Michael Partin  
Mine Inspector I

## Separations

Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2011

Name	Effective Date	Position	District	Supervisor
Sarah Clarke	9/30/2011	Office Support Assistant II	Frankfort	Johnny Greene
Larry Fuller	10/18/2011	Mine Inspector I	Madisonville	Ronnie Drake
William Hopkins	11/30/2011	Mine Inspector I	Pikeville	Mike Elswick
Jack Howard	9/23/2011	Mine Safety	Martin	Randy Smith
Charles Mitchell	8/12/2011	Mine Safety Analyst I	Harlan	George Johnson
John Sims	12/1/2011	Production Tech I	Frankfort	Harold Slone
Larry Reynolds	12/10/2011	Surface Mine Safety Analyst	Harlan	George Johnson



**KY Coal Fact:** In 2010, 18,235 individuals were employed in KY's state coal industry. These individuals produced 112,859,201 tons of the world's coal energy needs last year.

# Fatalities

- On Friday Oct. 7 at approximately 2 a.m. Kentucky suffered its fourth mining fatality of the year. Richard Coots, age 24, died as a result of crushing injuries sustained when a mobile bridge fell on him at the Owlco Coal Co. in the OMSL Hazard district.
- On Friday Oct. 28 at approximately 6:45 a.m. Kentucky suffered its fifth mining fatality of the year. Darrel Winstead, age 47, and Samuel Lindsey, age 23, died as a result of a high wall collapse at Armstrong Coal Co. in the OMSL Madisonville district.
- On Monday Nov. 7 at approximately 9:40 a.m., Kentucky suffered its seventh mining fatality of the year. Jerry Britton, age 47, died as a result of being struck by a battery-powered personnel carrier at Hubble Mining Co. in the OMSL Hazard District.
- On Monday Nov. 14 at approximately 4:10 p.m., Kentucky suffered its eighth mining fatality of the year. David Middleton, age 28, died as a result of an accident that occurred on Nov. 2 at Nally & Hamilton Enterprises Inc. Middleton was taken to the Holstein Valley Hospital in Kingsport, Tenn. where he remained until the time of his death.

# Serious Injuries

- On Saturday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 p.m., a serious injury occurred at Excel Mining LLC, Mine No. 3. Travis Pigg, continuous miner operator, was struck by a shuttle car. Mr. Pigg was taken to the Pikeville Medical Center for treatment. The injury occurred in the Pikeville District.



*Make it a point to practice safe working habits. It's something we can all live with.*

To view a full report, please go to:

<http://omsl.ky.gov/Pages/entuckyCoalMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx>



## We're on the Web

Additional information for OMSL may be found at [OMSL.KY.GOV](http://OMSL.KY.GOV). Follow the *Quick Links* for the Mine Safety Review Commission, Sanctions List, Training and Testing Schedules, Staff Contacts, and other useful information.



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Frankfort, KY 40601

## OMSL District Offices and Addresses

### Barbourville

1313C S U.S. Highway 25E  
P.O. Box 1886  
Barbourville, KY 40906  
Tel.: 606-546-5035  
FAX: 606-545-9704

### Harlan

174 Ballpark Road  
P.O. Box 836  
Harlan, KY 40831  
Tel.: 606-573-1260  
FAX: 606-573-1265

### Hazard

556 Village Lane  
P.O. Box 851  
Hazard, KY 41702  
Tel.: 606-435-6079  
FAX: 606-435-6078

### Madisonville

625 Hospital Drive  
P.O. Box 521  
Madisonville, KY 42431  
Tel.: 270-824-7523  
FAX: 270-824-7526

### Pikeville

284 Weddington Branch Road  
P.O. Box 3023  
Pikeville, KY 41501  
Tel.: 606-433-7742  
FAX: 606-433-7763

### Martin

Coal Building  
P.O. Box 907  
Martin, KY 41649  
Tel.: 606-285-3227  
FAX: 606-285-9206