

News Release



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MSHA launches inspection blitz in nation's coalfields *Federal inspectors focus on mines with history of ventilation, methane violations*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Mine Safety and Health Administration today announced that the agency launched an inspection blitz over the past weekend at 57 coal mines whose history of underground conditions indicated a significant number of violations and/or conditions that may include problems relating to methane accumulations, ventilation practices, rock dust applications and inadequate mine examinations.

These impact inspections came on the heels of a directive issued by Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Joseph A. Main immediately following the April 5 explosion at Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, W.Va. Under that directive, Main instructed all district managers overseeing the nation's coal mines to focus increased attention on mine ventilation, rock dusting, methane monitoring and mine examinations during all ongoing regular inspections.

“The purpose of these inspections is to provide assurance that no imminent dangers, explosions, hazards or other serious health or safety conditions and practices are present at these mines,” said Main. “Just last week, we pledged to the president that we will do whatever it takes to make sure another tragedy like the one that claimed 29 miners’ lives at Upper Big Branch never happens again.”

Depending upon mine size, as many as 10 inspectors were sent to each mine operation. They examined mechanized mining units at the selected mines, as well as the mines’ bleeder systems, belt entries and seals.

The 57 mines were selected based on their history of significant and/or repeat violations and focused on safety standards concerning methane, mine ventilation and rock dusting — the types of violations that can lead to mine accidents.

Mines in 10 states were the target of the inspection blitz: West Virginia (23 mines), Kentucky (14), Alabama (4), Illinois (3), Utah (3), Indiana (3), Pennsylvania (2), Virginia (2), Tennessee (2) and Colorado (1). More than 275 coal mine enforcement personnel participated in the blitz.

A list of the 57 mines follows this news release. The results of these inspections will be made public as they become available.

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Coal Mines Being Inspected

District	ID	Mine Name	Operator Name	Controller Name
DISTRICT 07	1509636	#77	Blue Diamond Coal Co.	James River Coal Co.
DISTRICT 08	1202010	Air Quality #1 Mine	Peabody Midwest Mining LLC	Peabody Energy
DISTRICT 04	4605437	American Eagle Mine	Speed Mining LLC	Patriot Coal Corp.
DISTRICT 04	4609180	Apache Mine	The New West Virginia Mining Co. Inc.	Brandy M Horvath
DISTRICT 04	4608801	Aracoma Alma Mine #1	Aracoma Coal Co. Inc.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 09	4202335	Bear Canyon #4	C W Mining Co.	Kenneth A Rushton
DISTRICT 04	4607908	Big Mountain No 16	Pine Ridge Coal Co. LLC	Patriot Coal Corp.
DISTRICT 03	4601968	Blacksville No 2	Consolidation Coal Co.	CONSOL Energy Inc
DISTRICT 03	4609136	Broad Run Mine	Big River Mining LLC	Coalfield Transport Inc
DISTRICT 04	4609086	Brody Mine No 1	Brody Mining LLC	Brody Trust
DISTRICT 05	4404856	Buchanan Mine #1	Consolidation Coal Co.	CONSOL Energy Inc
DISTRICT 07	1518924	Butcher Branch	Red Bird Coal Co.	Donnie Wagers; Onzie Sizemore
DISTRICT 04	4607009	Castle Mine	Elk Run Coal Co. Inc.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 04	4608570	Coalburg No 2 Mine	Rio Group Inc.	Richard H Abraham
DISTRICT 08	1102632	Crown III Mine	Tri County Coal LLC	Gary J Ronald; Archibald C Parker
DISTRICT 02	3605018	Cumberland Mine	Cumberland Coal Resources LP	Alpha Natural Resources LLC
DISTRICT 07	1518182	D & C Mining Corp,	D & C Mining Corp.	Horace Garrison Hill
DISTRICT 04	4608759	Eagle Mine	Newtown Energy Inc.	Robert E Ellis
DISTRICT 02	3605466	Emerald Mine No 1	Emerald Coal Resources LP	Alpha Natural Resources LLC
DISTRICT 03	4601456	Federal No 2	Eastern Associated Coal LLC	Patriot Coal Corp.
DISTRICT 07	1518991	Flint Ridge Mine #2	ICG Hazard,LLC	International Coal Group Inc (ICG)
DISTRICT 09	0503836	Foidel Creek Mine	Twentymile Coal Co.	Peabody Energy
DISTRICT 08	1102752	Galatia Mine	American Coal Co.	Robert E Murray
DISTRICT 08	1202215	Gibson Mine	Gibson County Coal LLC	Alliance Resource Partners LP
DISTRICT 04	4601271	Harris No 1	Eastern Associated Coal LLC	Patriot Coal Corp.
DISTRICT 10	1502709	Highland 9 Mine	Highland Mining Co. LLC	Patriot Coal Corp.
DISTRICT 09	4202074	Horizon Mine	Hidden Splendor Resources Inc.	Alexander H Walker III

DISTRICT 04	4607273	Justice #1	Independence Coal Co. Inc.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 07	1519080	Liggett #5	Liggett Mining LLC	James C Justice II
DISTRICT 03	4601433	Loveridge No 22	Consolidation Coal Co.	CONSOL Energy Inc.
DISTRICT 03	4601437	McElroy Mine	McElroy Coal Co.	CONSOL Energy Inc.
DISTRICT 07	1518264	Mine #1	Cawood Enterprises LLC	Jimmy D Robbins
DISTRICT 06	1507082	Mine #1	Freedom Energy Mining Co.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 06	1517651	Mine #1	Rockhouse Energy Mining Co.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 06	1518911	Mine #28	CAM Mining LLC	Wexford Capital LLC
DISTRICT 07	1518861	Mine No 1	Conshor Mining LLC	James H Hurley
DISTRICT 06	1508079	Mine No 3	Excel Mining LLC	Alliance Resource Partners LP
DISTRICT 07	4003272	Mine No. 14	National Coal Corp.	National Coal Corp.
DISTRICT 04	4608812	No 21	Marshall Mining Inc.	Carl Kirk
DISTRICT 04	4609020	No 65	Double Bonus Coal Co.	Mechel Oao
DISTRICT 11	0101401	No 7 Mine	Jim Walter Resources Inc.	Walter Energy Inc.
DISTRICT 11	0100759	North River #1 Underground Mine	Chevron Mining Inc.	Chevron Corp.
DISTRICT 11	0100851	Oak Grove Mine	Oak Grove Resources LLC	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.
DISTRICT 04	4601816	Pinnacle Mine	Pinnacle Mining Co. LLC	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.
DISTRICT 04	4609217	Powellton #1 Mine	INR-WV Operating LLC	INR-I Holdings LLC
DISTRICT 08	1202249	Prosperity Mine	Five Star Mining Inc.	Donald Blankenberger
DISTRICT 07	1518771	RB #12	Manalapan Mining Co. Inc.	Ben Bennett
DISTRICT 04	4601544	Road Fork #51 Mine	Spartan Mining Co. Inc.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 03	4601318	Robinson Run No 95	Consolidation Coal Co.	CONSOL Energy Inc
DISTRICT 04	4608808	Ruby Energy	Spartan Mining Co. Inc.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 11	0102901	Shoal Creek Mine	Drummond Company Inc.	Drummond Co. Inc
DISTRICT 07	1512564	Straight Creek #1 Mine	Left Fork Mining Co. Inc.	Ben Bennett
DISTRICT 05	4406804	Tiller No 1	Knox Creek Coal Corp.	Massey Energy Co.
DISTRICT 07	4003333	Tri-State One	Wilcoal Mining, Inc.	Wilma Wagner
DISTRICT	4608436	Upper Big Branch Mine-	Performance Coal Co.	Massey Energy Co.

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DISTRICT 09	4202233	West Ridge Mine	West Ridge Resources Inc.	Robert E Murray
DISTRICT 08	1103054	Willow Lake Portal	Big Ridge Inc	Peabody Energy
DISTRICT 04	4608949	Winifrede 12 Mine	Laurel Coal Corp.	Clarence R Peters; Richard N Nester

** UBB not inspected due to April 5, 2010, explosion