



News Release

U.S. Department of Labor | Sept. 29, 2015

MSHA awards \$1M in mine safety grants in five states

Funding to focus on resources for mine emergency preparedness, accident prevention

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration today awarded \$1 million through its [Brookwood-Sago grants program](#) to seven organizations that provide education and training within the mining industry. The funding will develop and implement training and related materials for mine emergency preparedness, and help prevent accidents in underground mines.

The list of recipients and the amount of funding they will receive are as follows:

The [Colorado School of Mines](#) in Golden, Colorado, is receiving \$224,006 to provide quality training to mine rescue teams. The training will focus on the development of advanced mine rescue skills using multiple training modalities. This includes pre-shift and on-shift mine examiner training in support of small mine rescue teams in Colorado.

The [Colorado Department of Natural Resources](#) in Denver, Colorado, is receiving \$126,811 to provide training programs and materials for mine emergency prevention, mine emergency risk-readiness assessment, and mine emergency preparedness for underground miners.

The [University of Alaska](#) in Fairbanks, Alaska, is receiving \$134,069 to provide mine rescue support and training through the combined use of unmanned ground vehicles and aircraft systems.

The [University of Arizona](#) in Tucson, Arizona, is receiving \$167,599 to develop a training program for underground miners on emergency self-escape via core competencies, experiential learning and virtual reality exercises.

The [Pennsylvania State University](#) in University Park, Pennsylvania, is receiving \$156,513 to develop materials and a computer-based, instructor-led, e-learning program for mine emergency preparedness for mine rescue instructors and new team members.

The [Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy](#) in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, is receiving \$50,000 to provide mine emergency preparedness training to miners for mine emergency firefighting.

The [United Mine Workers of America Career Centers Inc.](#), in Prosperity, Pennsylvania, is receiving \$141,002 to develop an interactive computer program to train and prepare miners on mine emergency preparedness, specifically escape procedures from outby (toward the mine entrance) areas of underground coal mines.

Training grants are awarded for a 12-month performance period, and applicants must be states or nonprofit entities. Established by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, the program is named in remembrance of 13 men who died in two explosions at the [Jim Walter Resources Inc.’s No. 5 Mine](#) in

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The department’s [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

Brookwood, Alabama, in 2001, and 12 men who died in an explosion at [Wolf Run Mining Company's Sago Mine](#) in Tallmansville, West Virginia in 2006.

#

Media Contact:

Amy Louviere, 202-693-9423, louviere.amy@dol.gov

Release Number: 15-1932-NAT