



In Memoriam

Words cannot fully express the thoughts, feelings, and sympathies we share when a member of the mining community is killed on the job. These emotions truly come to the forefront when an unforeseen disaster occurs to take the lives of hard working miners. The tragedy that occurred in Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Coal Mine on April 5, 2010 not only captured the attention of the country from the President to its citizens; it especially touched the nation's mining community. We held our collective breaths hoping and praying for the undiscovered to have survived. We shared in the grief when we learned that all had perished. The **29** men were brothers, fathers, sons, grandfathers, uncles, cousins, and friends to those in their West Virginia community. They were brothers to miners everywhere. They lived. They laughed. They celebrated life.

As we come together in a competitive environment, this tragedy reminds us of the ever present possibility that any mine rescue team could be called into action at a moment's notice. Let us pause and take note of the lives lost, especially the **29**. We should also remember the families and friends left behind. They are the unsung heroes who must continue on without their loved ones; only memories remain to cherish. Finally, to all the mine rescue team members who willingly risk their lives to save one of their own. We remember.