

Mine Rescue Rules 2011 Questions

General Information for Conducting 2011 Mine Rescue Contests

Rule 1 -

What about dress code for the lifeline persons?

- A. They are part of the team – must be dressed similarly. Rule 1, 2nd Paragraph, 3rd Sentence – “uniform” – Webster : “dress worn by members of a particular group and serving as a means of identification.”

Is it considered comparing maps if the team stops while coming outside after final vent and the map man and tail captain compare with briefing officer if using communication?

- A. No- this is acceptable.

Briefing officers meeting the physical requirements may substitute for any team member if so desired. Does a briefing officer have to pass the physical exam just to be a briefing officer?

- A. Have to pass physical exam to be on team by Part 49.

Rule 2 -

Many teams do not wear “belts” due to the design of the harness assembly on their apparatus. Can the identification tag be attached to the harness or belt assembly and be considered within the rules?

- A. I.D. tag can be attached to the apparatus belt, in lieu of a ‘pants belt.’ Teams must be aware that if an apparatus is changed-out, there must be some means to change the person’s I.D. tag to the new apparatus. I.D. tag can be attached to the ‘pants-belt.’

Rule 6 -

For combination team, May the patient be from another registered team from the same company?

- A. No

Rules Governing 2011 Mine Rescue Contests

Rule 1 -

How does a team know when final ventilation has happened? Something should be more defined to let a team know final vent has just occurred.

- A. The final ventilation required by the problem.

Rule 1 -

May the map man stand and look at the briefing officer's map, while holding his map after the final ventilation? The maps will not be side by side.

A. If maps are placed side-by-side they are being compared. However, it would not be prudent or wise for a team to put itself in such a position and argue their intent if discounted.

Rule 1 -

Can the captain review the briefing officers map before the clock is stopped and make changes that he sees that is wrong as long as he doesn't refer to map mans map.

A. Yes.

Rule 1 -

Briefing officer Paragraph says he may mark the briefing officer map from info received from team via radio while team underground. Does this mean they can never compare maps in fresh air base and give info in person?

A. Can't compare after final ventilation.

Rule 1 -

Does the briefing office have to wear SCSR during the contest problem? Also does patient have to wear SCSR?

A. No, for both. (for contest purposes.)

Rule 1 -

Comment on "delay" for comparing maps prior to final ventilation. Many times teams want to double check and/or compare what they are going to do for a vent. With what the BO has. It shouldn't matter whether it is the 1st vent or final vent. - they should be allowed to do so. The BO may actually plot this through as a double check before the vent even if team has it right.

A. Can't compare after final ventilation. If a team delays making a final ventilation change which may be necessary to rescue a patient, and clearly demonstrates they are comparing maps for the sole purpose of map correctness and not ventilation, they may be discounted for delaying the patient.

Miscellaneous

Rule 3 -

If the map is dotted line does the contest director have to tell the teams that there is an opening in the mine and its location?

A. No, but problem should be designed to comply with all rules.

Rule 4 -

If there is not a stopping on the FAB and you have an opening in the mine air will move through the mine no matter if it is a blowing or exhausting fan. Is this correct?

A. Only if there is an opening in by the FAB.

Rule 4 -

Define air migration - example, with a solid line map and the air short circuited in FAB will the air move in the mine after the fan has been started?

A. No. Air can be short circuited at the FAB for contest purposes.

Rule 4 -

What if airlocks are across all three entries? Will removing them affect airflow?

A. Air will still be short circuited at FAB - Team will be discounted for not building airlock where necessary (If opening in by FAB, air could move).

Rule 4 -

Can air be short circuited one CC in by the FAB (solid line map) and not send air elsewhere in the mine? If not, why? What is the difference between this and short circuiting at the FAB? Please explain.

A. For contest purposes, air is short circuited at FAB only - in by FAB air will move.

Interpretations of the A-Card

Rule 3 -

If there is a time limit, can you get time discounts?

A. Only for apparatus checks, not overtime.

Rule 4 -

With regard to ventilation off of the mine grid- We wanted to confirm that you said in order to ventilate off the grid, you must be told that the area has been explored and is safe to ventilate through.

A. Yes. There are no other workings to be considered for exploration outside of the maps given to the teams.

Elongated water over knee deep of caved along the rib that team travels past. Is this area considered explored and do you map object found in these areas?

A. Areas are not considered explored - problem designers - don't put objects in here since they should not be able to see them.

Rule 5 -

5 F. FPAs – in past team FPAed at last team stop prior to exiting the mine...not anywhere else, Still they same?

A. See Rule 5F

5 K. If a map man moves a battery mine phone to a new location, would he be docked if he puts another X for mine phone at new location?

A. No

5 K. The words “or mapped” was added from last years rules but not red lined. Can you explain what this means?

A. Remove.

5 K. Changes left in mine & FAB. Do victims removed from mine to FAB require an “X” at the FAB and does this move require an “arrow” to be drawn from the spot of discovery to the spot the victim was left?

A. No, for both.

5 K. Relocation of ignition source – Can a team show an “X” for the new location?

A. X where it is found, verbatim description – notation stating it is moved/ relocated. X at new location, verbatim description, notation stating moved here/ relocated here. Can also use a line.

5 K. Even though this arrow is the symbol used for air movement, will it be acceptable for indicating relocating battery mine phone?

A. No, a line may be used as it is not a symbol in the Legend.

5 K. Should an “X” be used to show the new location of the relocated battery mine phone?

A. Yes, and write it out.

5 O. The captain or his designee could decline to confirm on the field the final vent map. If it is declined is that a 2 point doc?

A. No.

Rule 6 -

Does the briefing officer map have to denote victims removed from the mine?

A. No.

Interpretations of B-Card

A. Apparatus

Rule 7 -

To examine a face piece does the captain have to touch the face piece?

A. Visually examine.

Rule 10 -

Please describe an "other such designated location" give some examples:

A. Other area must be designated through the problem or made known in the problem design. Captains briefing. Designated by Contest Director.

A "hardened" room UG. Apparatus Storage Station or Apparatus Change Room

10. Must the O2 be turned off during this simulation?

A. Yes. They must follow prescribed procedures for getting under oxygen, depending on type of apparatus used.

10. What rule says that you have to do an air tightness test on a conscious patient?

A. Rules 3 and 39 state prescribed procedure must be followed when putting apparatus on patient if mask tightness testis required, it must be done. A conscious patient is treated the same as an apparatus wearer when going under O2.

10. How do you perform the mask tightness test on a live conscious person with a CAREvent?

A. Page 49: There are no recommendations from manufacturer for testing mask tightness using the CAREvent.

Rule 14 -

What tests must be performed in the presence of the judge for gas detecting instruments?

A. Must be on, must show at least CH₄, O₂, CO, must be proper working condition. After testing, may be turned off.

14. Gas detecting instruments tested, What must be included in the gas detection instrument?

A. Must test for at least CH₄, CO and O₂

14. If a gas detector was left on during a contest and failed, would there be a discount?

A. No

Rule 18 -

If a linkline can be 23' long, why is it limited to 25' from the No. 1 or No. 5 persons stopping point?

A. For contest purposes, to set limits for team travel on initial exploration.

Rule 19 -

Does the team need to get permission for a ventilation change prior to hanging a line curtain? What if hanging line curtain is in conjunction with a brattice curtain, at what point is ventilation change, prior to constructing brattice or prior to hanging line curtain?

A. Up to each contest director: they must explain to teams and judges.

C. Communication and Signaling

Rule 20 -

Teams with wireless "radios." Rule states teams may use reel with rope, wire or cable with tensile strength to be used as manual com. System if needed. Can carpenters string or other types of string be used in place of "rope?"

A. Must be rope, wire, or cable with sufficient tensile strength.

D. Gas and Roof Testing

Rule 23 -

Rule states that a Roof and Rib (R & R) test is required when rebuilding a stopping that is completely destroyed. What about a "partially" destroyed stopping?

A. R & R test is required - this would be considered as building a temporary stopping.

23. If a fire is found on the rib line at an intersection, when must the fire be extinguished and/or when would the team or member be discounted for passing the fire?

A. Team is discounted when member passes the fire without extinguishing it. Rule 30 C - on the rib line would be considered as in the intersection.

23. Roof and rib (R & R) test with a fire in middle of intersection with a diagonal stopping built. Is a ½ straight line R & R OK or must it be a zig zag?

A. The rule states it must be a zig zag, especially since the diagonal would prevent rib to rib.

23. R & R test: If the team discovers a placard stating “smoldering rib” or “smoking coal” does this require a roof and rib test as if this was a “fire?” Even if the placard does not have the work “Fire” on the placard.

A. Must state FIRE on the placard.

23. After you do R & R test, and you hang curtain that is being used as brattice frames, can you still DI it for BO to build it later?

A. Yes

23. Gas Test – 4th paragraph states that gas test can be made as captain is making roof check (roof test does not have to be complete) statement was made that roof test needs to be complete, before gas check can be made.

A. The answer that was made concerning this was made while discussing the installation of roof supports in areas of unsafe roof. Setting support and testing the roof and ribs must be done before any other person enters the area.

Rule 24 -

24 A. Will a gas test be required at these placards?

A. Open borehole – YES ; Borehole – NO; Closed Borehole – No

24 A. Is a placard stating borehole the same as an open borehole or does the placard need to state “open borehole”?

A. Must state “Open” borehole.

24 A. Is a borehole into a rib or face considered an open borehole, or would this just mean a borehole that is open to the surface?

A. Placard must state if “open”; it doesn’t matter where it goes, to surface or another mine, because it can’t be used for ventilation.

24 A. Is a gas test required on either side of an exhaust fan?

A. Required on both sides – 24(a) and 24(c) requires all entrances to be checked, 24(a) requires exhaust fans to be checked.

24 A. When testing a sample pipe or tube in a seal...you are required to “open” before testing.

A. Yes.

24 A. If you don't "close" the tube could ventilation happen through the tube?
A. No

24 E. Do I need to put another gas placard in the intersection, or will it extend by team travel?

A. If no other way to get there, it will be there: If you want to be sure place a placard there.

24 E. Gases will extend to the air tight separation or to a gas placard indicating a change. A curtain is not airtight and a stopping with a hole or a door is not air tight. Why can we not take down a stopping with a hole in it without air locking? The gas would extend beyond a curtain or a stopping with hole or door. Would the hole in the stopping make the area accessible? You would not be required to air lock, you already know what's on the other side gas-wise?

A. Airlock required if breaching airtight separation.

24 E. Walls of overcasts - Does gas test have to be done on each side?

A. Yes

What if OC wall has door & door is open?

A. If door is open, it is not intact and airtight.

E. Miscellaneous

Rule 27 -

If statement said, count for all missing person, Why would FPA be required on Field?

A. Rule 27 tells you where D&I are needed. If FPA - see Rule 5F.

27. Will you be discounted if the captain puts his date and initials on an actual stopping regulator, seal, barricade, etc., built on the field? (Not the new curtains)

A. The rule states "at the location." If the D&I are placed on or at it there should be no discount. According to Webster, the word "at" is defined as: "used as a function word to indicate presence or occurrence in, on, or near."

27. When working in grass, will the term "DI here" told to the judge be enough or will the captain have to say day/month/year plus initials?

A. There is no difference in D&I on the grass for the curtain - stoppings from caved areas, loose roof, etc.

27. If a team captain timbers through an area that the back side has not yet been made, why would a D & I be required on the back side?

A. In this case shown, D & I not required on back side because travel would no longer be prohibited (R & R test still required)

27. Does the team captain have to place his D & I on the field at the farthest point of advance OR is it just required on the team map? (This question only applies to the failure to explore the entire mine.)

A. Yes

Rule 28 -

Can any other work be done prior to initial team check? (50' in by FAB)

A. Yes - check must be done before leaving the 1st team stop.

28. If 50 feet check can be made after team makes all openings at that stop and the captain exceeds 50 feet from fresh air would this be a discount?

A. Yes, don't have to do check 1st thing, but all other rules must still be complied with.

Rule 29 -

When is the captain allowed to move into the next intersection? - must a command for an advance be given, or must the CC actually be moving?

A. Yes, a command must be given to move to the team.

Rule 30 -

30 A.2.(e). Before any other work is done, does this include gas test? After the captain has set timbers, can gas man take gas test while captain finishes roof test? Will it be the same as other roof test where once captain states test, gas test can be taken?

A. Roof Test must be made before gas test is made. The area is not deemed safe for team to travel through until the entire area has been supported and roof tests completed.

30 D. Must the REAL O2 bottle be turned off during a simulated warning whistle event (the rule only states "may verbally state changing bottle)

A. Yes, it must be turned off.

30 D. Must the captain have the team member turn off the O2, take off mask, and then go under O2 like normal?

A. He must have the apparatus taken off, placed on the ground as in Rule 10, and put back on following the proper donning procedures for that apparatus.

30 D. What does 'immediately' mean? Can team finish checks at the team stop they are at?

A. 'Immediately' means without delay, "(No additional work)" as stated in rule. The rule also states the functions that may be performed.

30 D. Please explain "No additional work" in regards to apparatus failure, if a patient has been visually contacted.

A. Can take patient out with you.

30 D. Is the team required to travel to the FAB during a simulated apparatus failure or can they go to an RA, if they have explored and retrieved person/ persons from the RA and repair the apparatus?

A. The team is required to retreat to the FAB. The rules do not provide, at this time, procedures for entering a RA for any reason.

Rule 31 -

31 C. If gas is to extend over the overcast, will there be a placard stating gas content on overcast?

A. If the overcast wall is intact and airtight - must have placard to make it extend over the top.

31 D. If a gas placard does not have carbon monoxide on it, can you still have an explosive mixture?

If a placard only has 2 gases on the maps, should it be shown as an "X"? This questions is due to you making the statement for a placard to be a gas placard it must have all 3 gases listed.

A. If a placard is used to indicate any gas(es) all 3 gases must be shown on placard.

Rule 37 -

Define "running."

A. All team members running.

Rule 39 -

Mask tightness test not required for unconscious patient. What if he/she is conscious? Is one required then?

A. Yes.

Rule 42 -

42 A. Verbal communication – Why not hand the team a note, in addition to the patient reading a statement, stating that verbal communication was established? This would make the ? establish of verbal communication consistent among all teams. This way a team could not say we didn't hear the patient. (This would eliminate hearing and voice inconsistencies among teams).

A. Rule states verbal contact is what can reasonably be expected to be heard.

42 B. Rule states; The 25 foot limit will be determined from the stopping point at or out by the patient(s). Does this mean the captain or the No. 5 man for the 25 feet?

A. Either one.

42 B. Once you have visual contact with patient the team can do any work but build vent controls, timber or pump. If the map is dotted line in by the patient can you not build back barricade for an airlock, before you exit the mine?

A. If an airlock is required to go through the barricade, it may also be required to

42 C. What constitutes “visual contact” when referenced to the patient?

A. Captain must be able to “visually” see patient – must be perpendicular to patient in same entry, crosscut or intersection.

Rule 44 -

At what point will a “rope stopping” be considered “airtight?”

A. When both ends are connected to the sides of the entry, or as per the contest director's instructions.

44. What happens if a team knocks off a “hook” of rope stopping accidentally?

A. They must re-connect it.

44. When rebuilding a partially destroyed stopping, should the curtain be completely disassembled from the rib and reattached?

A. Only has to be completely disassembled when moving to another location.

Rule 45 -

45 E. "This may require building an airlock or ventilation controls such as a stopping, door, etc...." How can a team construct a door?

A. I don't know.

45 F. Can the problem written instructions over ride this rule and for example require teams to timber into unsafe areas even if not needed?

A. Only if reasons given, such as ventilate for bare-face exploration, leave safe to travel.

45 F. If a written problem states "Explore all areas of the mine if it can be done safely" and at the end of a problem all persons are accounted for and no additional vents are needed - if there is an inaccessible area (unsafe roof or water over knee deep) and there are timbers or a pump available, would a team be required to use these timbers or pump water to meet the "explore all areas or the mine if it can be done safely?"

A. No, if all persons have been accounted for additional exploration is not required.

Rule 46 -

This rule states, in part, "An overcast cannot be rebuilt as an overcast if completely destroyed." This implies that a partially destroyed overcast can be repaired. Example: One corner of the overcast torn down with a placard "overcast partially destroyed." In an earlier question, you said an overcast with a 6" hole could not be repaired. I think the rule allows repair to partially destroyed overcast.

A. The Rule states: "Erected walls of overcasts/undercasts cannot be removed or altered by the team." This is interpreted to mean that no alterations or repairs can be made to existing walls.

46. If overcast wall has a 6" hole in it, can a team travel through it to examine crosscut?

A. Team cannot open overcast wall.

Can team repair that 6" hole?

A. No.

Rule 49 -

49 E. If using temporary rope type stopping to extend line curtain does the #5 man have to hold onto the rope with the line curtain?

A. Contest director will explain intent.

49 E. Can a line curtain found in a face or other area of the mine be used to ventilate a barricade?

A. Yes

49 E. If a contaminant is encountered in an entry and another gas card is in by showing no contaminants, can the contaminant be winged out by a curtain if a stopping is erected at the second gas box? Please give a clarification of this.

A. Cannot build an airtight separation to wing gases out. As stated in the rule, "...a line curtain which can only extend from a face, barricade, or airtight separation." This was intended to mean such separations that were pre-existing on field. (see attached explanation)

49 F. If the contest uses alternate forms of brattice cloth and frames. How would this be applied to this rule? Do they attach the two together or would contest need to have this statement in their (rules for using alternate forms of brattice cloth and frames)?

A. Up to each contest director - they must explain to teams and judges.

49 G. Does this also include any maps made by other team members, such as tail captain's map? Please clarify.

A. Cannot compare ANY maps with the B O map after final ventilation required by problem.

49 G. Can the team talk to briefing office after final vent about other things other than his map (i.e. whether written instructions have been completed, etc.) while at the FAB?

A. Yes.

Rule 51 -

If written instructions say, "explore entire mine if it can be done safely", if there are inaccessible areas located in the problem and all missing persons have been accounted for, would you still have to timber or pump to access inaccessible areas to meet the written instructions of "explore the entire mine if it can be done safely"?

A. Do not have to timber or pump because these are inaccessible areas.

Questions/Statements Not Specifically Covered By Rules

Need to make sure that the number drawn to take test is the proper person on the team. No sending a person not in that position on the team to take the test, then moving him later.

A. This will be monitored closely by Contest Officials.

Why is there not a stricter penalty for not completing a time limit problem?
(Metal non-metal is a point penalty for not completing problem)

A. This will be addressed next year.

If teams fail to complete problem on a timed problem, the discounts need to be more substantial for the team that fails to finish a problem versus a team that finishes a problem. Why aren't there more discounts for failure to complete problem?

A. This will be addressed next year.

There needs to be a discussion about whether or not a team should be able to win a contest in a competition that has a time limit and the team does not finish the problem?

A. Will be addressed next year.

When re-entering area with refuge alternative with no physical structure in area, may team travel over R/A?

A. Contest Director should explain traveling through areas indicated to be impassable is a discount.

Is "Long Curtain" the same as "Line Curtain"?

A. No - use verbage and symbols in legend - if not in legend use X

Extent of Gases - If an intersection does not have a gas placard, can teams assume the air is clear in that intersection?

A. Extent of gases depends on team travel - and goes to next normal area to be tested or placard that changes constituents.

Problem design - Can problem designers use elongated caved areas?

A. Yes

Is this area when passed considered explored?

A. No

Legend - Refuge - 6 foot of door - does it mean outside of refuge only? Or does 6 foot of door mean outside/inside refuse from door?

A. Outside of RA

During the working of several problems last year, when our teams have started using radios, we have had problems with business, fire services, and other outside concerns stopping over our radio communications. These problems were not addressed immediately due to the fact the judges did not know if they were team communications or not even when the team(s) brought this to the judges attention. This type of situation needs to be addressed in a more timely and efficient manner.

A. We will do the best we can to prevent this occurrence. At that Nationals, with the competition in-doors, may limit the signal reception from transmitting source outside the building.