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Comments pertaining to the Criteria to Certify Coal Mine Rescue Teams:

(1) Members are properly trained annually

- All Pa State trained teams currently comply with this criteria through the MTTC and state sponsored skills in the anthracite region

(2) Members are familiar with the operations of each covered mine;

- All teams comply with this standard as per 30 CFR

(3) Members participate in at least two local mine rescue contests annually;

- All teams comply either through the MTTC, local contests or state sponsored events

(4) Members participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine; and

- All teams comply with this standard as per 30 CFR
 - It must be noted that the requirement for 2 underground composite team visits or 4 underground contract team visits is not a wise use of training resources and time.
 - An annual visit incorporating all portions of emergency response training at the mine would suit the needs better.

(5) Members are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine.

- All teams comply with this standard as per 30 CFR

The Bureau current uses the existing Instruction Guide IG7 "Advanced Mine Rescue Training – Coal Mines" as a part of certifying coal mine rescue team qualifications.

The modules in this IG include:

- Surface Organization
- Mine Gases
- Mine Ventilation
- Exploration
- Fires, Firefighting, and Explosions
- Rescue of Survivors and Recovery of Bodies
- Mine Recovery

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As stated before, the Bureau participates with the MTTC in mine rescue skills training utilizing most of the criteria in the New Instruction Guide IG7a *“Advanced Skills Training (AST) – Activities for Coal Mine Rescue Teams”*, includes activities and exercises moved from existing Instruction Guide IG7 and additional exercises to provide more hands-on skills training to improve team performance when responding to a mine emergency.

- Bench Exercise
 - Currently use criteria
- Gas Detectors Exercise
 - Currently use criteria
- Exploration Exercise
 - Currently use criteria
- Smoke Room Exercise
 - Currently use criteria
- **Fire Hose Management Exercise & Firefighting Exercise**
 - **Currently use criteria for bituminous & nonmetal teams**
 - **This exercise is not practical for the anthracite rescue teams due to the extreme pitch of the coal seam in the area.**
 - **Anthracite coal requires more heat to combust and anthracite dust does not propagate an explosion.(IE: No rock dust is required)**
 - **Currently, there are no anthracite mines with electrical face equipment.**
 - **The anthracite teams would be better served if the repelling training they receive at least twice a year could be used in lieu of the hose management/firefighting.**
- First Aid Exercise
 - Currently use criteria
- Anemometer Exercise
 - Will add to the curriculum
- Differential Pressure Gauge (Magnehelic) Exercise
 - Will add to the curriculum
- Reference Manual Exercise
 - Currently use criteria