ISSUE DATE: 2/21/14  
LAST VALIDATED: 03/31/2021

PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P14-01

FROM:    GEORGE FESAK  
         Director of Technical Support

         MARVIN LICHENFELS  
         Acting Administrator for  
         Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health

         KEVIN G. STRICKLIN  
         Administrator for  
         Coal Mine Safety and Health

SUBJECT: Reissue of P12-08 - Global Positioning System (GPS) and  
         Established Surface Stations or Markers

Who needs this information?  
Operators of underground coal or metal and nonmetal mines, independent  
contractors, miners' representatives, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)  
enforcement personnel, state mining agencies, and other interested parties need this  
information.

What is the purpose of this bulletin?  
This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) informs the mining industry of potential  
alternatives when inclement weather renders satellite linked Global Position  
System (GPS) surveying equipment data collection slow or inoperable.

Information  
GPS surveying has greatly enhanced the accuracy and timeliness of surveying.  
However, mine accidents that trap miners may occur during inclement weather.  
During times of inclement weather, the GPS satellite link may be lost or the data  
collection system may be slow or inoperable. In these cases, conventional surveying  
methods must be used. In preparation for these circumstances, MSHA recommends  
that mine operators:

- Establish strategic surface stations or markers over the underground active  
  working sections as a routine part of the mining advancement. These surface
markers must be readily accessible and easily located in the event they need to be used to determine a miner's exact location or surface drilling site.
- Protect markers from the elements and vandalism. Markers should be easily recognizable by any survey crew operating during times of an emergency.
- Show markers on a map that also depicts surface features such as roads, streams, powerlines, etc.
- Operators may consider including the surface marker's placement in the mine's emergency preparedness planning.
- Environmental permitting and property acquisitions should include access for the setting of surface markers during active mining.

Implementing these suggestions will aid in the rapid determination of surface borehole drilling locations in the event of an emergency.

What is the background for this PIB?
Past incidents have highlighted potential problems associated with sole reliance on GPS surveying technology.

What is MSHA's authority for this PIB?

Is this PIB on the Internet?
This PIB may be viewed on the World Wide Web by accessing the MSHA home page (www.msha.gov) and choosing "Compliance Info" and "Program Information Bulletins."

Who is the MSHA contact person for this PIB?
Mine Safety and Health Enforcement
Marcus Smith, (202) 693-9547
E-mail: Smith.Marcus@dol.gov

Technical Support
Jeffery Kravitz, (412) 386-6923
E-mail: kravitz.jeffery@dol.gov

Who will receive this PIB?
MSHA Program Policy Manual Holders
Underground Mine Operators
Mine Equipment Manufacturers
Miners' Representatives
Special Interest Groups