



Dear Mine Rescue Team Member,

Each year, we commemorate "**Mine Rescue Day**" on October 30th. We, (the entire mining community) want to take the opportunity to thank you for your selfless dedication and willingness to be called upon in case of a mine emergency to fight a fire, search and rescue and to protect property if needed.

It certainly takes a special breed of miner to be willing to enter a mine after a fire or explosion in a potentially dangerous atmosphere when everyone else is going the other way. You are certainly among an elite group, worthy of admiration and sincere thanks. The mining community sometimes loses sight of your importance when it goes an extended period of time without a major emergency that requires your expertise. Of course, we all hope that your skills will never again be needed, however; history has shown, that preparedness is crucial and that "if we fail to prepare, we prepare to fail!"

The time that you spend preparing for an event that we all hope never come, the time that you spend practicing the skills that we all hope are never needed and the family and other personal time that you sacrifice are greatly and sincerely appreciated. You truly are a hero, even if you "never" have to enter a mine after a fire or explosion! The willingness stands for itself.

The MSHA webpage has a vast array of information about mine rescue including training, contest information, supporting organizations etc. Please visit our MSHA mine rescue training page to access this information.

As the mining industry evolves, so does the need for improving skills, equipment and other support functions such as technological advances in gas detection, communications etc. Today, there are approximately 650 underground mines operating in the country which includes both "Coal and Metal/Non Metal" and there have been instances where your skills have been called upon to enter non-operating or "abandoned" mines to search and rescue for missing people, and who knows, how many abandoned mines still exist?

Again, we salute you for your bravery and courage in potentially difficult times and for your service to our nation's miners.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David G. Zatezalo in blue ink.

David G. Zatezalo
Assistant Secretary of Labor for
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Handwritten signature of Jeff Kravitz in blue ink.

Jeff Kravitz
President, Holmes Mine
Rescue Association

Handwritten signature of Wes Kenneweg in blue ink.

Wes Kenneweg
President, National Mine
Rescue Association