

MASHA's



Mine Rescue

Newsletter



An update on your Ontario mine rescue program

Issue #1 November 2005

You name it!

Welcome to the first issue of a new publication aimed at keeping mine rescue volunteers and others across Ontario in touch with the program. This newsletter will include updates on equipment, programs, personnel and incidents. But a newsletter needs a name. Any ideas? Enter our contest to name the newsletter and win a prize. Just email your suggestion to susanaldane@masha.on.ca. Stay tuned!

Do I hear \$150?

Flame safety lamps were used in mine rescue in Ontario for more than 75 years. Now they've been replaced by the ITX monitors which offer more accurate measurement of a greater range of gases. Mine rescue volunteers, retirees and others from the industry have the chance to own a little piece of mine rescue history by bidding in the flame safety lamp auction. The auction is online at MASHA's web site, www.masha.on.ca. The bidding on each separate lamp starts at \$120. The auction closes December 31, so get your bid in now!

Committee keeps a finger on MR pulse

The Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee is made up of volunteers from across Ontario with experience as crew members and coordinators. The committee meets regularly to discuss issues and make recommendations to MASHA on ways to improve the program. The committee's role includes:

- Providing advice and recommendations on the content of mine rescue training programs;
- Providing advice and making recommendations regarding mine rescue emergency equipment requirements;
- Identifying and recommending research projects; and
- Recommending changes to the mine rescue handbook.

Current projects include a mine rescue code of practice and advanced certification program, as well as overseeing virtual reality research (see story and list of TAC members at left).

Virtual reality gives control groups a clearer picture

A research project now underway in Sudbury may improve mine rescue responses by helping control groups "see" what's happening with the crew underground.

Virtual reality is an interactive, computer-based, multimedia environment in which the user becomes a participant with the computer in a 'virtually real' world. The research institute Mirarco, working with MASHA and the mine rescue technical advisory committee, is looking into virtual reality as a decision-making tool to help control groups during an emergency.

The research project uses three-dimensional computer images to generate a realistic picture of the emergency underground. The first step is to use the models to train control groups. But eventually it may be possible for mines to program their own underground structure, giving control groups a bird's eye view of where crews are and what they're likely to encounter as they respond to an emergency.

The research project is funded by the Research Advisory Council of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

TAC launches new award

There are many occasions when a mine rescue team member goes beyond his duty to help others, on and off the job. Now a new award, established by the mine rescue technical advisory committee, will recognize those individuals. The Distinguished Action award will honour active team members who have saved the life of another person. Awards will be presented at the annual banquet. Nominations must be made by a mine rescue officer, and must be supported by documentation of the rescue. The TAC will approve awards before they are presented. If you know of someone who may be deserving of an award, please speak to your mine rescue officer.

Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee members

Charlie Burton	MASHA/Mine Rescue
Jean Chenier	Falconbridge
Mike Dudar	Inco (USWA)
Alex Gryska	MASHA/Mine Rescue
Bruce Hall	MASHA/Mine Rescue
John Leclair	Inco
Brad Liddell	Goldcorp Inc.
Robert McLean	Moran Mining
Jamie Mortson	Porcupine Joint Venture
Doug Osborne	Windsor Salt
Scotty Robertson	Ministry of Labour
Gilbert Wahl	River Gold Mines
Joe Wojtus	Newmont Holloway Mine

We need you!

If you have comments about the newsletter, or suggestions for future articles, please contact Susan Haldane at MASHA, (705) 474-7233 ext. 261, or susanaldane@masha.on.ca



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Emergency Responder Thermal Imaging Camera

Mine rescue crews may soon have another tool for finding personnel underground and predicting fire behaviour. Thermal Imaging Cameras are being tested for their uses in underground rescue.

Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) see heat or infrared (IR) energy in very small variations in temperature. The human eye only sees light energy. Without light, we can't see anything.

TICs sense heat in full light or total darkness. Everything warmer than absolute zero, -460°F, emits a heat signature which these cameras can turn into images for humans to observe on a screen. High-performance firefighting TICs can see layers of heat in a structural fire, providing advance warning of developing high heat and even explosions. They can also be used to examine electrical installations for possible shorts or over-temperature conditions.

Ontario Mine Rescue has been testing a new TIC from MSA, the Evolution 5200, which offers exceptional temperature range sensing and construction to rigorous fire code and military standards, ensuring the equipment will stand up to tough underground mine environments. The plan is to have one TIC for each Mine Rescue station by the end of the year.

Who's where at MASHA Mine Rescue

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- **Tim Taylor, Delaware**
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New resuscitator tested

As part of its efforts to provide the best available equipment to crews, Mine Rescue has been investigating new resuscitators. The units may serve a dual purpose, for resuscitating unconscious victims, and possibly to replace the OXY SR45 and SSR 90M units.

Mine Rescue teams in Sudbury, Onaping, Red Lake and Timmins conducted field trials on a Carevent CA resuscitator manufactured by O-Two Medical Technologies. The teams were impressed with the equipment saying they especially liked the following features:

- light weight (14.6 oz / 0.45 kg)
- simplicity of use (only one control to worry about)
- designed to use the mask from a BG4
- easy to service
- walking casualties can use it
- 90-minute duration
- useful for confined space rescue
- the regulator accommodates BG4 cylinders.

In their reports, the teams said they

felt the new unit could be an effective replacement for the OXY SR45 and the SSR 90Ms units currently in use. They also recommended improvements to the unit. MASHA worked with the manufacturer to integrate the improvements.

A training manual is in production and 40 units, one for each Mine Rescue station and sub-station, will be purchased.

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INCIDENT UPDATE

A recent callout raised some questions about general mine fire protection practices.

The fire started in a quantity of garbage, the same fuel source for the infamous Hollinger mine fire of 1928 which, through the Godson Commission, led to the establishment of Ontario Mine Rescue. Housekeeping in all mines should be a matter of standard operating procedure.

The first team underground found they didn't have enough hose to reach the fire.

The second team attempted to extinguish the blaze with a foam generator which, because of low water pressure, was unable to generate enough foam to reach the fire.

The third team went underground with more hose and was finally able to extinguish the fire with no problems.

About the Mine Rescue Newsletter

MR newsletter is published twice a year by the Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association. The association is funded by mining and aggregates workplaces in the province, through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

The information in this publication is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, the association assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or sufficiency of this information, nor does it endorse any product mentioned herein with the exception of those produced by MASHA.

Would you like to receive this newsletter directly by email? Please send your request to isabellacaron@masha.on.ca



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