Link Line

an update from WSN on YOUR Mine Rescue program

Issue #18 Summer 2012

Barrick-Hemlo tops Ontario

Two-time runners-up move up to claim best in province

Tops at last.

After finishing second in the Ontario Mine Rescue Competition for two years running, mine rescuers from Barrick-Hemlo finished on top at the 62nd annual competition in June in Sudbury.

In addition to earning the gold hard hats for the best overall team – Captain Mark Osiecki, Vice-captain Leo Belanger, Dennis Senden, Jason Landry, Brian Randell, Albert Pelland, Tyler Pelland, and Briefing Officer Denis Leduc, also won the Team Firefighting Award.

Barrick-Hemlo finished second in the 2010 competition in Timmins, and repeated as runners-up last year when they hosted the competition at Williams Mine near Marathon.

Erik Barr, of Goldcorp Canada's Porcupine Gold Mines, won the Technician Award, followed by Barrick-Hemlo's Denis Bilodeau in second, and AuRico Gold Inc.'s Jesse Vaillancourt in third.

Kirkland Lake Gold earned runner-up honours, as well as the First Aid Award. Goldcorp Canada's Mussellwhite Mine earned the Special Equipment Award.

KGHM's team, comprised mainly of first-year mine rescuers, received special recognition from guest Alexander Sin, head of the Department of Mines Rescue Services, Emercom of Russia, who expressed the hope that the volunteers would enjoy as long a career in mine rescue as he has. Sin led a Russian delegation studying the volunteer structure of Ontario Mine Rescue.

In the competition scenario, mine rescue teams were called to the mine rescue station – Vale's Copper Cliff Mine South Site – to respond to a report of an underground fire and three missing workers, one of whom reported in prior to the teams proceeding underground.

See "Teams" Pg. 4

The 2012 Winners

OVERALL WINNERS

1st – Barrick-Hemlo

2nd – Kirkland Lake Gold

FIREFIGHTING TEAM AWARD

Barrick-Hemlo

FIRST AID TEAM AWARD

Kirkland Lake Gold

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AWARD

Goldcorp Canada, Mussellwhite Mine

TECHNICIAN AWARD

1st – Erik Barr, Goldcorp Canada, Porcupine Gold Mines

2nd – Denis Bilodeau, Barrick-Hemlo

3rd – Jesse Vaillancourt, AuRico Gold Inc.

We need you!

If you have comments about the newsletter, or suggestions for future articles, please contact Ken Sitter at WSN, (705) 474-7233 ext. 234, or kensitter@workplacesafetynorth.ca

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2012 AWARD WINNERS

First Overall
Barrick-Hemlo

Second Overall
Kirkland Lake Gold

Technician Award
1st - Erik Barr
Goldcorp Canada, PGM

Technician Award
2nd - Denis Bilodeau
Barrick-Hemlo

Technician Award
3rd - Jesse Vaillancourt
AuRico Gold Inc.

Firefighting Award
Barrick-Hemlo

First Aid Award
Kirkland Lake Gold

Special Equipment Award
Goldcorp Canada, Mussellwhite Mine

Platinum Sponsor

Dräger

Platinum Sponsor

Technica Mining

Silver Sponsor

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Competition Gallery

How the best communicate

Research effort focuses on communication

Wired for Sound *- A Member of Porcupine Gold Mines rescue team watches as Prof. Mary Waller attaches a USB key-sized micro-recorder to his hard hat. The recordings will be analyzed to determine the communications patterns of top performing teams.*

"This is the coolest," declares Mary Waller, during a "break" in the 2012 Ontario Mine Rescue Competition, comparing the simulated mining emergency to those she has monitored in the airline, nuclear, oil and gas industries, as well as anti-terrorism response.

Waller, a professor of organization studies and associate director of the new Global Mining Management Program at the Schulich School of Business at York University, has researched team dynamics in high stress situations for 20 years.

Waller "always wondered why some teams were unstoppable while other seemingly similar teams could never get off the ground." Her curiosity led her to a PhD in Organizational Behaviour at the University of Texas at Austin, and subsequent positions teaching and conducting research at various universities before joining York in 2008.

Previous research efforts examined aviation flight crews, nuclear power plant control room crews, military crews, port and harbor operations, and even a terrorism response operation during emergency simulations, but researching mine rescue response tops them.

This year's competition marked the latest step in her research, a three-year project with Ontario Mine Rescue and Workplace Safety North to analyze behaviour and communications patterns of mine rescue teams competing in the annual event.

What makes the mine rescue competition unique among Waller's previous research is the real-time, physical simulation in which communication, decisions and actions – OK, good, better, best – are implemented and result in direct consequences.

ANALYZE DIFFERENCES

That the event is, for the most part videorecorded and evaluated by impartial judges are bonuses to her research effort, which is being supported by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada.

This year each team member, including the briefing officer, was equipped with a USB key-sized audio micro-recorder, which recorded the entire event, and what each participant said.

The recordings will be synchronized and reviewed in 10-second increments by Waller's students to identify and code the communication – information, commands, questions, affirmations, clarifications, etc. – between the members, the captain and the briefing officer.

The results will be analyzed by a computer using a pattern recognition algorithm to identify and analyze the differences in communication patterns between high- and good-performing teams.

At this level, all of the teams are good, Waller said, but some teams are better than others. If the lesser teams can improve their communications, they may be able to close the gap,

Waller will present her preliminary findings in October 2013 at the International Mines Rescue Bodies conference in Niagara Falls.

Teams respond to challenge without captain

Continued from Pg. 1

During the simulation the teams discovered one worker trapped under a rolling, service bay door. After extricating him and removing him to surface, the teams returned to fight a scooptram fire and search for the remaining miner, found overcome by smoke in an office.

Once returned to surface, the team without their captains, responded to a second call – to assist a welder who had collapsed while working on an elevated manlift.

Competing mine rescue teams represented Canadian Salt Co. Ltd. (Southern District); Goldcorp Canada, Musselwhite Mine (Red Lake District); Barrick-Hemlo (Thunder Bay/Algoma District); Goldcorp Canada, Porcupine Gold Mines (Timmins District), Kirkland Lake Gold (Kirkland Lake District); KGHM (Onaping District); and Vale, East Mines (Sudbury District).

This year's competition was co-hosted by Vale, Xstrata Nickel, KGHM and First Nickel. The event was sponsored by Drager Safety, Technica Mining and Acklands Grainger.

Thanks Dale

Dale Kosie, right, recieves a trophy and certificate from Ontario Mine Rescue manager Alex Gryska in appreciation of 30 years of volunteer service to Ontario Mine Rescue. Kosie, the mine electrical superintendent at Red Lake Gold Mines, has been a fixture as a competitor or judge at Red Lake District Mine Rescue Competitions since joining mine rescue in 1981. He has twice been on provincial championship teams, and now helps train newer volunteers.

Job Well Done

Dan Gagnon, centre, receives the Ontario Mine Rescue Distinguished Action Award from Tim Maloney of Vale, and Candys Ballanger-Michaud, president and chief executive officer of Workplace Safety North. Gagnon a mine rescuer from Vale's Garson Mine, performed CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to save a three-year-old child while on vacation near Kapuskasing in June 2010. He is only the third recipient of the award, first given in 2006 and intended for any mine rescuer who saves a life under any circumstances.

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About the Mine Rescue Newsletter
MR newsletter is published three times per year by Workplace Safety North (WSN). WSN is funded by 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 Workplace Safety North.

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