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## **WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY**

1615 Washington Street, E. ▪ Charleston, West Virginia 25311 ▪ Telephone 304-558-1425 ▪ Fax 304-558-6091

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### **PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

To: All persons interested in Rules and Regulations constructed by the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety

From: Joel L. Watts, Administrator – BCMH&S

Subject: **Fire in and about mine; notification of director and district mine inspector; Mine emergency evacuation plan.** Title 36, Section 52

Date: 22 April 2010

End Date for Comments: 28 May 2010

Authority: §22.6.4

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The Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety is posting a proposed regulation which amends the current statute into regulatory format to increase the degree of safety. This is a new rule requiring immediate notification of the Director of OMHST and a mine emergency evacuation plan.

You may send all written comments to

1615 Washington Street East  
Charleston, WV 25311

All comments must be post-marked by 28 May in order to be accepted by the Board for consideration.

**Title 36**  
**Legislative Rules**  
**Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety**

**Series 52**

**Fire in and about mine; notification of director and district mine inspector; Mine  
emergency evacuation plan**

**§36-52-2. General.**

1.1 Scope: Rules and Regulations Governing Underground Coal Mines in the State of West Virginia

1.2 Authority. W. Va. Code 22A-6-4

1.3 Filing Date.

1.4 Effective Date.

**§36-52-2. Fire in and about mine; notification of director and district mine inspector.**

The operator or mine foreman, upon the discovery of fire in or about a mine, shall immediately notify the director and the district mine inspector in whose district the mine is located.

**§36-52-3 Mine Emergency evacuation plan.**

(a) Approved program of instruction.

(1) Each operator of an underground coal mine shall adopt and follow a mine emergency evacuation, and firefighting program that instructs all miners in the proper evacuation procedures they must follow if a mine emergency occurs,

(i) The approved program shall include a specific plan designed to instruct miners on all shifts on the following:

(ii) Scenarios of the various mine emergencies (fires, explosions, or gas or water inundations) and the best options for evacuation under each type of emergency. These options shall include conditions in the mine that will require immediate donning of self-rescue devices.

(iii) Procedures for evacuating all miners not required for a mine emergency response

(iv) Procedures for the rapid assembly and transportation of necessary miners, fire suppression equipment, and rescue apparatus to the scene of the mine emergency.

(v) Operation of the fire suppression equipment available in the mine

(vi) Location and use of firefighting equipment and materials

(vii) Locations, quantity, types and use of stored SCSR's, if applicable.

(2) The mine emergency evacuation instruction and drills shall be conducted by a person who is designated by the mine operator and who has the ability, training, knowledge, or experience to provide training to miners in his or her area of expertise. Persons conducting donning and transferring training shall be able to effectively train and evaluate whether miners can successfully don the SCSR and transfer to additional SCSR devices.

(3) The operator shall submit this program of instruction, and any revisions, for approval to the Director of the Office of Miners Health, Safety and Training. Before implementing any new or revised approved provision, the operator