

## Mines Rescue teams demonstrate skill under pressure

Newcastle (Australia), 27 June 2022 —

Whether it's search and rescue underground following a roof fall in a mine, fire fighting or attending to first aid casualties, Mines Rescue brigades are trained to prepare for anything.

Their emergency response skills were put to the test this month at the annual mines rescue competitions where teams faced a series of simulated events in both underground and surface environments.

Team Orange, captained by Bob Wilson, won the Newcastle competition that was held at Mannering Mine on Friday, 17 June, while Peabody Energy's Wambo team captained by David Malone, won the Hunter Valley competition that was held at Integra Underground on Friday, 24 June.

Bob is a brigade veteran with 30 years' service. On winning the Newcastle event he said, 'It is an honour to be part of Mines Rescue. When this team attends the Australian titles later this year, I personally will have competed at ten national competitions during my time with Mines Rescue. This is only due to the performance of my team members on past comp days and of course this year's event. So it really is a privilege to be here, a privilege to be part of this team.'

The Wambo team's exceptional performance throughout the day included winning the first aid scenario and captain David Malone not only scoring the highest marks for the theory component but also taking home the coveted Wayne Wallace shield for Best Captain.

On receiving the winning shield, David said, 'I would like to start by thanking our team. Competitions are a real test of our skills and training. This win is the result of team work and commitment. I would also like to thank Peabody and Wambo for their support and Hunter Valley Mines Rescue for the high level of training they have provided over the years.'

These competitions are the first in a series of regional competitions hosted by NSW Mines Rescue. Competitions will also take place in Wollongong and Lithgow with the winning teams from each region invited to compete in the Australian competition to be held in later in the year.

The primary purpose of Mines Rescue is to provide emergency response to the NSW coal mining industry in the case of an emergency. Thankfully, major incidents requiring brigade

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response are limited. Events like these allow brigade members to practice and hone their skills in preparation for the unfortunate circumstance where they may be called upon.

Lachlan Grant, Northern Regional Manager for NSW Mines Rescue, said that these competitions are important to ensure brigades maintain their skills and that support from industry is critical.

‘I’d like to thank both Chain Valley Colliery and Integra Underground for allowing us to hold events at their mines and for all the sites for allowing their teams to compete. One of the most important aspects of mines rescue training is to simulate as closely as possible what a real event could be, so having the competitions at an underground mine puts the teams into a real environment with real hazards. It adds to that element of being prepared for the unexpected.’

### Fast Facts

- There are 461 voluntary brigade members across the NSW coal industry; around 150 in the Northern region.
- Minimum 5 per cent industry dedicated to emergency response (1 in 20 underground workers)
- Initial ten day induction training required for all new recruits
- Six training days required per year for all brigade members
- A large percentage of brigade members progress into more senior mining roles

Brigades competing at Newcastle	Brigades competing at Hunter Valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Mandalong (Centennial Coal)</li><li>● Myuna (Centennial Coal)</li><li>● Chain Valley (Delta Coal)</li><li>● Integra (Glencore)</li><li>● Abel (Yancoal)</li><li>● Coal Services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Integra Underground (Glencore)</li><li>● Ashton Coal (Yancoal)</li><li>● Wambo (Peabody Energy)</li><li>● ‘Barbarians’ a mix of representatives from various mines and Mines Rescue cadets</li></ul>

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### About Coal Services:

Coal Services is an industry-owned organisation committed to providing critical services and expertise to the NSW coal mining industry.

We are a Specialised Health and Safety Scheme that provides an integrated suite of services aimed at preventing injury and illness in the workplace. These services help employers to identify, assess, monitor and control many risks inherent in the NSW coal mining industry.

Our preventative and responsive services in the areas of occupational health and safety, workers compensation, mines rescue and training help to deliver on our purpose 'to protect'.

We are jointly owned by two shareholders, the NSW Minerals Council and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU). Our purpose, vision and values are aligned to focus on the safety and health of our industry and its workers.

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