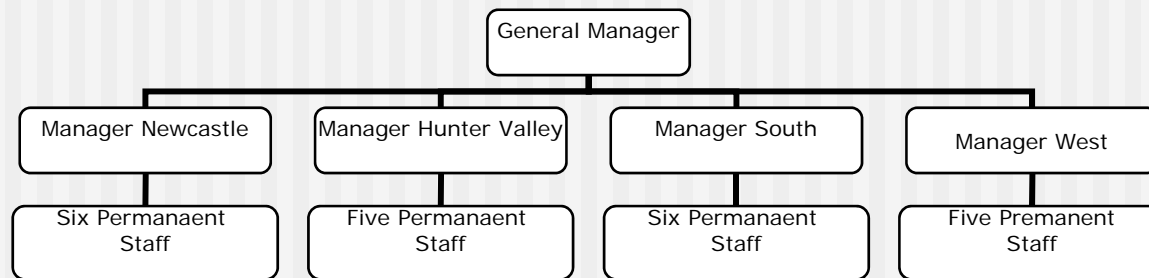


Mines Rescue Service NSW

- Coal Industry Act 2001 required the formation of companies to be “approved” by the Minister for Mines. Mines Rescue Act 1994 abolished.
- Coal Services Pty Ltd was formed as an “approved” company to administer Health, Insurance and Mines Rescue services. Jan 2002.

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Mines Rescue Service NSW

Functions of The Mines Rescue Brigade

Provide a mines rescue service to respond and deal with emergencies arising at underground coal mines in NSW, and at other mines.

This service is to be under the control of the Mines Rescue Company.

Members of the brigade are to be regarded as employees of the Mines Rescue Company when acting as a brigadesmen.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Mines Rescue Company must determine: -

1. Number of persons to be made available by each mine for rescue purposes – currently five percent.
2. The number and type of breathing apparatus that the owner must provide – currently 33 BG4's per district.
3. The amount of area that must be provided for training and use in an emergency.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Normal Operations:

All Rescue Stations operate on a Five Day week – Monday to Friday.

Standby System: (After normal hours)

Two persons at each station on call 24/7 each day of the year.

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Southern Mines Rescue Station - Wollongong

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Newcastle Mines Rescue Station

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Mines Rescue Service NSW



Mines Rescue Service NSW

Core Function

Is to provide rescue services to collieries, train brigadesmen and provide and maintain equipment for response.

Other Functions

The Mines Rescue Service provides a range of training to coal and other industries on a fee for service basis to reduce the cost of the service to the coal industry.

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Nitrogen Inertisation

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Nitrogen Inertisation

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Nitrogen Inertisation

Mines Rescue Service NSW



Gas Chromatography – CMTS, Newcastle, Hunter.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Other Activities – Newcastle Station.

Gas Chromatography

Induction & On-going Training of Contractors

Mine Site Fire Training

Marine Engineers Training (Compressed Air & Fire Fighting)

Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus

Confined Space Training

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Other Activities – Lithgow (WMRS)

Mines Rescue Training in Tasmania, South Australia and Western NSW for Coal and Metaliferrous mines.

Contractor Induction Training.

Confined Space

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Other Activities – Wollongong (SMRS)

BHP Steel Industry Training.

Police & Ambulance Training.

Statutory Official Training

Trainer & Assessor Training

Company training on request

Confined Space Training.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Other Activities – Hunter (HVMRS)

Open Cut Mine Training

Development of “Remote Instructor” Training.

Working at heights training.

Rope Rescue Training

Gas Chromatography

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Emergencies

Several factors have led to a reduced level of major incidents in the past 5 – 10 years, particularly in regard to personnel.

1. The quality and commitment given to training of the workforce.
2. The high level of expertise in industry.
3. The application of risk assessment.
4. High industry commitment to safety.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Emergencies

Spontaneous combustion has been the major cause of activation of the Mines Rescue Service in the recent past – incidents have occurred in both the Newcastle & Hunter regions.

Western Mines Rescue responded to a fatality at an open cut.

Southern were called to respond to a body recovery operation caused by drowning.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Staff Recruitment

Staff have mainly been sought from the coal industry – other expertise has been brought in at different times.

Encouragement is given to attain statutory qualifications and the possession of this type of qualification can be advantageous in the selection process.

Internal training program for staff.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Brigadesmen

Brigadesmen are selected at mine site level.

Must be nominated by their mine manager.

Must pass a medical which involves fitness and heart monitoring.

They attend a ten day intensive training course and then are required to attend six training per year to maintain currency.

No compulsory retirement age.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

■ Brigadesmen

- 20%-25% drop out rate after 5 years.
- Past this point most stay until medically unfit.

Mines Rescue Service NSW

Issues Facing the Rescue Service

Ageing workforce – both in the industry and within the Mines Rescue.

Booming industry is making it difficult to compete in terms of remuneration – high demand for staff.

Brigadesmen tend to advance to higher positions making training attendance difficult.

Some stations are limited by their location and/or age in what they can offer in training.