

# 2015 COAL REPORT

Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety | Indiana Department of Labor

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### Governor Michael R. Pence

Indiana's history in coal mining stretches back more than 150 years, and it remains as valuable an industry today as it has ever been. The energy produced by Indiana's coal fuels our state's economy by providing jobs in coal production and affordable, reliable electricity to homes, businesses, and services throughout our great state. Indiana's coal industry is under attack from new federal regulations, and I pledge to fight against these regulations with all means at my disposal.



I continue to support changes and advancements in coal mining that foster safety and health for these men and women, and I thank our coal miners for their dedication and hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Pence".

Michael R. Pence  
Governor of Indiana

### From Commissioner Rick J. Ruble



It is with great pride that the Indiana Department of Labor and the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety present the 2015 Indiana Coal Report. This annual report reflects the hard work, dedication, and safe operation of Indiana's nine underground coal mines during the calendar year.

In total, our Hoosier coal miners mined near 16 million tons of clean coal during calendar year 2015. As Commissioner of Labor, I applaud the diligence and cooperation demonstrated by everyone within the Indiana coal industry for their efforts to foster a culture of worker safety and health while supplying our nation's homes and businesses with this valuable resource.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick J. Ruble".

Rick J. Ruble  
Commissioner of Labor

## About the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety

The Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety is a division of the Indiana Department of Labor. The division is under the direction of the Commissioner of Labor. The Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety is staffed by an Assistant Commissioner, Chief Mine Inspector, and the Indiana Mining Board.

The Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety ensures the public has access to mine records, which include mine maps. Mine maps are stored on digitized disks. Access to this information is made possible by the Indiana Geological Survey (IGS), an institution of Indiana University, as established by Indiana Statute in 1993.

As Assistant Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety, Donald “Blink” McCorkle says, “There is no safe way to do an unsafe act.” Collaborating with Indiana mine management and coal miners, the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the Indiana Mining Board, and many others, the goal of the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety is to ensure Hoosier underground coal miners work in a safe and healthy workplace.

## From Assistant Commissioner Donald “Blink” McCorkle

Coal is a “diamond in the rough.” Throughout history, this resource has been used as an energy source, which is primarily burned for the production of electricity and heat, as well as other industrial purposes.

This resource would not be readily available without the hard and safe work of our coal miners. The goal of the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety is to ensure the hardworking Hoosier coal miners work in a workplace free from occupational safety and health hazards. This goal requires a cooperative effort and the diligence of management, labor, professional organizations and associations, and government.

Often I wonder what it would be like not to have this resource. Being a coal miner for 44 years, it’s hard to imagine how this nation would function without this cheap, abundant resource. Yet this is the dilemma that we face. Our coal mines and coal miners are facing possibly the worst downturn in the history of the coal industry. It looks bleak and foreboding. But I have worked with and beside many of these individuals in my career, and I know that they are smart, tough, hard workers and will survive. We have the technology, the intelligence, and the backbone to weather this storm. We must persevere and work tirelessly to see that our industry does survive and that this coal mining heritage that has been entrusted to us is not lost but saved and resurrected for our future generations.

Coal mining is a proud tradition and honorable profession. I have worked alongside many fine coal miners in my career. It is truly an honor to be associated with the men and women who have chosen coal mining as their professional life.

Together, we can educate the nation on the impact that we have in fulfilling everyday needs. Thank you to the coal mining industry for all that you do to keep our homes warm and lights on.



*Don "Blink" McCorkle*

Donald “Blink” McCorkle  
Assistant Commissioner

## Indiana's Mining Board

Formed by Indiana statute in 1955, Indiana's Mining Board administers Indiana's laws regarding underground coal mines. The Mining Board is a five-member board with members appointed to a four-year term by the Governor of Indiana. By statute, two members must be experienced underground coal miners in non-supervisory roles, two members must be experienced underground coal mine operators, and the fifth member must be a member of the general public not related to the coal industry. A chairman is elected by the Board for a one-year term. The Indiana Mining Board collects and distributes information concerning the health and safety of the mines and miners, and proposes mining legislation to the Indiana General Assembly. The Board is also charged with promoting the technical efficiency of all individuals working in Indiana's underground mines. To ensure that miners are properly certified to complete specialized tasks, the Indiana Mining Board administers certification examinations to Indiana's coal miners.

Testing is offered on the second Saturday of January, April, July, and October for the certification of:

- **Mine Foremen**
- **Mine Examiners**
- **Hoisting Engineers**
- **Shot Firers**
- **Belt Examiners**

Part 75.100 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines "certified persons" to perform belts examinations as a mine foreman, assistant mine foreman, or mine examiner but does not mention a belt examiner. In 2014, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) interpreted the law to mean that the belt examiner is no longer accepted as a certified person to do a belt examination. Therefore, MSHA no longer recognizes the belt examiner certification in any coal mining state.

## Indiana Mining Board Members

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### Tim Emmons (Chairman)

For the past 22 years, Tim Emmons has served as Chairman of the Indiana Mining Board. A veteran coal mining professional, Mr. Emmons is a certified MSHA trainer with more than 30 years experience in coal mining.

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### John Stachura

John Stachura has served on the Indiana Mining Board since 1985 and has 43 years experience in all areas of coal mining from machine operation to senior-level management.

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### Paul Lake

Serving as the Indiana Mining Board's representative of the public since 2012, Paul Lake is the Executive Director of the Pike County Economic Growth and Development Council.

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### Greg Xanders

Appointed to the Indiana Mining Board in 2014, Greg Xanders is a seasoned Mine Safety Trainer with more than 40 years experience in coal mining.

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### Chris Whitehead

Chris Whitehead is an engineer with Boyd Brothers Construction. Mr. Whitehead was appointed to the Indiana Mining Board in 2007.

## Certification

In 2015, Indiana's Mining Board issued a total of 81 certifications to Hoosier coal miners working as mine foremen, mine examiners, hoisting engineers, shot firers, and belt examiners.

Certification	Mine Foreman	Mine Examiner	Shot Firer	Hoisting Engineer	Belt Examiner
Number Issued	60	13	0	8	0

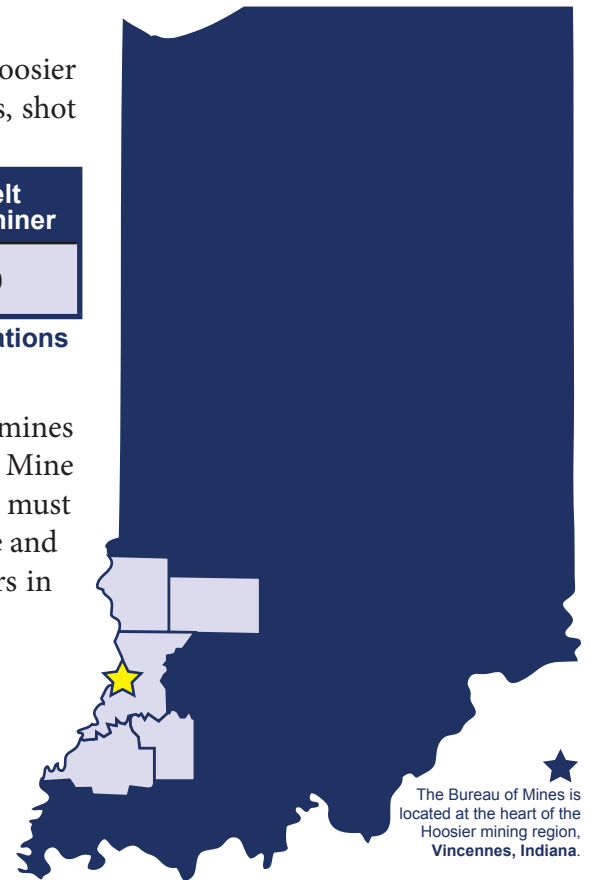
**TOTAL of 81 Certifications**

## Permits and Licenses

Mining applicants seeking employment in the underground coal mines must receive a miner's permit from the Director of the Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety. Indiana law requires that anyone employed in an underground mine must demonstrate sufficient intelligence and character as to not be a danger to life and property. A total of 193 permits and licenses were issued to Hoosier miners in 2015.

Permit/License	Miner's Permit	Miner's License
Number Issued	34	159

**TOTAL of 193 Permits and Licenses**



## Coal Production

The following table shows the amount of coal mined by each Hoosier underground coal mine in 2015:

Coal Mine	County	Employees	Tons of Clean Coal Produced	Coal Seam
Sunrise Coal Company Oaktown Fuel Mine #1	Knox County	352	3,597,649	#5
Gibson County Coal Company Gibson South Mine	Gibson County	242	2,995,531	#5
Peabody Coal Company Francisco Mine	Gibson County	290	2,935,577.52	#5
Sunrise Coal Company Oaktown Fuels Mine #2	Knox County	221	2,235,168	#5
Gibson County Coal Company *Gibson North Mine	Gibson County	252	2,170,191	#5
Sunrise Coal Company Carlisle Mine	Sullivan County	31	1,335,736	#5
Triad Underground Mining Freelandville West Mine	Knox County	66	549,931	#5
Triad Underground Mining Log Creek Mine	Pike County	35	19,169	#5
ERC Mining Indiana Corporation Gold Star Mine	Greene County	26	0	#4
<b>TOTAL TONAGE OF CLEAN COAL PRODUCED</b>			<b>15,838,952.52</b>	

\*Gibson North Mine was put in idle status December 18th, 2015

## Indiana Mine Rescue

The state of Indiana maintains a mine rescue station at Vincennes University. This mine rescue station has all the required equipment to fully outfit and maintain two mine rescue teams.

The state of Indiana has a fully trained mine rescue team that exceeds federal training requirements. These dedicated individuals are volunteers from Sunrise Coal Company's Carlisle Mine; ERC Mining Indiana Corporation's Gold Star Mine; and Triad Coal Company's Freelandville West and Log Creek Mines. To ensure adequate protection and compliance with 30 CFR 49, the team also contracts Peabody Coal Company's Francisco Mine Rescue Team.

In addition, the Indiana coal mining industry has the extra protection of having four additional fully trained teams. These teams are comprised of representatives from Gibson County Coal and Sunrise Coal Company.

The Indiana Mine Rescue Team is trained by Assistant Commissioner Don "Blink" McCorkle and Chief Mine Inspector Steve Riley. Mr. Riley also serves as an Indiana Mine Rescue Team member.

The Indiana State's Mine Rescue Teams competed in two separate mine rescue contests and a mine rescue skills competition this year. Contests were held in both Vincennes, Indiana and Madisonville, Kentucky.

Exercising both physical and mental capacities, participation in these contests is important. These contests provide an opportunity to engage the mine rescue team members in variety of hands-on tasks including firefighting and fire hose management, administering first aid as well as gaining proficiency in the use of mine rescue equipment and apparatuses that are likely to be used during mine emergencies.

It is the discipline to prepare that leads to success, and through the training and dedication of these individuals and all mine rescue teams nationwide, this has proven to be true. Some mine rescue teams nationwide have been in rescue and recovery operations, and others have not, but all are ready and prepared at a moment's notice. Mine rescue team members are a special breed, because they are willing to risk their lives for those of their coal mining brothers and sisters who may need help.

## 2015 Indiana Mine Rescue Team Members

**Dave Daniels**

Freelandville West Mine

**Mike Hersel**

Freelandville West Mine

**Joby Johnson**

Freelandville West Mine

**Neal Stakeman**

Freelandville West Mine

**Eric Noland**

Carlisle Mine

**Rusty Berry**

Carlisle Mine

**Steve Riley**

Chief Mine Inspector  
Indiana Bureau of Mines  
and Mine Safety



The Indiana Mine Rescue Team, 2015

## DEFINITIONS

### Occupational Injuries

An injury that requires medical attention or results in death, loss of consciousness, temporary reassignment, or transfer to another job is classified as an occupational injury.

### Occupational Illnesses

An occupational illness is an illness or disease that results from work at the mine and for which compensation is made.

### Accidents

Accidents are incidents resulting in life-threatening injury, death, entrapment, inundation of gas or liquid, unplanned fires, explosions, unstable conditions, or roof collapses.

### Incident Reporting

Mine operators must report each occupational injury or illness occurring at a mine within ten working days. Accidents must be reported within 15 minutes of the operator learning of the accident.

## Injuries in Underground Mining

The Indiana Department of Labor and the Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety, along with our partners at MSHA and every Hoosier mine operator, are dedicated to reducing and eliminating workplace hazards in the coal mines. In 2015, Hoosier underground mines saw about a 1.5 percent decrease in the number of injuries from 2014.

Coal Mine	County	Employees	Recordable Accidents	Lost Time Accidents
Sunrise Coal Company Oaktown Fuels #1 Mine	Knox County	352	10	5
Peabody Coal Company Francisco Mine	Gibson County	290	5	5
Gibson County Coal Company Gibson North Mine	Gibson County	252	13	0
Gibson County Coal Company Gibson South Mine	Gibson County	242	10	1
Sunrise Coal Company Oaktown Fuels #2 Mine	Knox County	221	12	6
Triad Underground Mining Freelandville West Mine	Knox County	66	1	3
Triad Underground Mining Log Creek Mine	Pike County	35	1	1
Sunrise Coal Company Carlisle Mine	Sullivan County	31	17	6
ERC Mining Indiana Corporation Gold Star Mine	Greene County	26	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,515</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>27</b>

## INDIANA BUREAU OF MINES AND MINE SAFETY

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Website: [www.in.gov/dol/mines.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/mines.htm)

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*“Advancing the safety, health and prosperity  
of Hoosiers in the workplace”*

