Kanawha Putnam Emergency Management Plan Functional Annex	
Mining Accidents **Revised December 2025; Reviewed Biennially**	**A26**
NRP Coordination:	
Primary Agency:	Mine Operator
Support Agencies:	▪ Emergency Management ▪ Fire Service ▪ Emergency Medical Service ▪ Law Enforcement ▪ American Red Cross ▪ 911 Center

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

The Mining Accident annex will set forth guidelines for supporting emergency operations during an underground emergency incident at a mine site.

B. Scope of Work

The guidelines in this annex will be limited in scope to mining accidents that result in potential threat to life safety and result in a call for service received at the 911 center.

Impoundment failures are covered by individual impoundment plans available from the Director of Emergency Management. Plan Functional Annexes, such as Functional Annex A01-Public Warning, A04-Evacuation and A07-Mass Care may also apply to such incidents.

C. Planning assistance

Technical assistance for this annex was provided by WV Coal Association and by the WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training.

II. Situation and Assumptions

A. Mining accidents can present unique rescue and lifesaving challenges.

B. Mining accidents have the potential for environmental damage that transcends the mine operator's property.

C. County and state resources are available to respond to mining accidents, including rescue hardware, personal protective gear and specially trained personnel assets.

D. Due to notification procedures set forth in State law, a call for local public safety services may come from the mine site or from the State Mine and Industrial Accident Emergency Operations Center.

E. State and federal regulations govern mining operations and response to emergent mining incidents.

F. State and federal agencies are required by law to respond to scenes of mining accidents.

G. Mining incidents involve command personnel who may not be accustomed to utilization of public safety personnel in Unified Command, potentially creating confusion and coordination issues among commanders.

H. Incidents with several potential casualties may draw massive media attention resulting in traffic congestion in the area of the mine.

I. A catalog of all mine sites and contacts for each are maintained by each county Office of Emergency Services.

III. Direction and Control

A. Incident Command

1. Initially, the coal company is in charge of the incident.

2. The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training (MHST) oversees crisis management once its personnel arrive on-scene and until relieved of command by a higher authority.

3. The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is in charge of crisis management once its personnel arrive on-scene. Their authority supersedes MHST.

4. The fire chief of jurisdiction or his/her designee will be the on-site incident commander for all surface operations, pursuant to WV State Code.

B. Emergency Management

1. The Emergency Management Director, or his/her designee, is the authority for overall coordination of activity related to the incident.

2. All requests for resources needed for response to the incident will be coordinated through Emergency Management and in accordance with the Resource Management plan (see Functional Annex A15-Resource Management).

IV. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. The role of the local response community is as follows:

   a. Establish and maintain a Unified Command structure.

   b. Provide fire suppression resources, as needed

   c. Provide resources for rescue of persons, as needed.

   d. Provide resources for Emergency Medical Services and emergency medical transport services, as needed.

   e. Provide the command post and mobile communications support, as needed.

   f. Coordinate public information (see Functional Annex A03—Communications).

   g. Provide traffic diversion and peripheral security, as needed.

   h. Develop and maintain staging areas for first responder resources, media and family members of miners' families, as needed.

i. Provide human services support as needed (see Function Annex A08-Health and Medical).

2. All personnel reporting to the scene must be escorted by mine operator's personnel or agent while on mine property, particularly while traversing the property by motor vehicle.

3. All public information, including media communications, must be coordinated by Emergency Management and the command structure, including the Mine Operator.

B. Primary Agency

1. Provide notifications as required by law.

2. Participate in Incident Command System.

3. Coordinate media statements through Emergency Operations Center.

C. Supporting Agencies

1. Emergency Management

a. Responsible for overall coordination of response to incident.

b. Provide support to command structure including, but not limited to, Emergency Operations Center activation and staffing, as needed.

c. Provide coordination of communications efforts.

d. Process resource requests per Resource Management plan (see Functional Annex A15-Resource Management).

e. Ensure response is compliant with the Plan.

f. Provide coordination of Incident Action Plan.

g. Maintain briefing schedule with Chief Elected Officer.

h. Coordinate media briefings per Emergency Public Information plan (see Functional Annex A03 - Communications).

2. Fire Services

    a. Provide fire suppression resources.

    b. Provide above-ground rescue services.

    c. Participate in unified command with Mine Operator and state and federal agencies.

    d. Establish and operate aero-medical landing zones, as needed.

    e. Fire Incident Command should consider appointing Safety Officer who interfaces with Mine Operator's safety director.

    f. For safety reasons, strictly prohibit department personnel from responding to mine site incidents in privately-owned vehicles.

3. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

    a. Provide above-ground emergency medical care

    b. Provide emergency medical transport services.

    c. Participate in Unified Command.

4. Law Enforcement

    a. Maintain perimeter security, including security for staging areas, as needed.

    b. Conduct traffic diversion or control (see Functional Annex A06-Traffic Diversion).

    c. Participate in Unified Command.

5. 911 Center

    a. Provide dispatch services.

    b. Provide notification to local response and emergency management personnel.

c. If call for service comes from mine site, provide notification to Mine and Industrial Accident Emergency Operations Center.

d. Dispatch EMS and fire department first responder personnel, as needed.

e. Maintain mine operators' radio communication frequencies for interoperability purposes during emergencies.

f. Provide Kanawha County Mobile Command Post (KC-1) to response for command post and communications interoperability functions.

g. Add KC-1 to response list for all mine sites and maintain same in Metro CAD.

h. KC-1 personnel will provide radios necessary to facilitate interoperability and communications among key command personnel.