

Mine Rescue - Mutual Aid

A Guideline for
the
Ontario Mining Industry



~ Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Definition

A Mutual Aid Agreement is a formal agreement between two mining employers under which one employer provides a mine rescue team to the other employer in an emergency. A standard mine rescue team consists of five people trained to respond to emergencies (primarily to underground fires).

Source:

WSIB - Mutual Aid Agreements for Mine Rescue (12-04-11)

Though the WSIB definition specifically refers to mine rescue teams, in practice MAA's in industry are prepared to send any required resources – equipment, materials, seven men, etc... We recommend the approach taken by employers to work out an agreement to address any human resources.



MAA Guideline Objective

To provide our Ontario mining operations with a structure to assist with the development and implementation of a MAA

Benefits:

- establish framework for communication and cooperation
- detail significant points of providing such aid

Outcome: to reduce the potential for misunderstandings between participating parties



MAA Objective

To provide emergency response assistance to:

- operations in start-up phase
- operations in decommissioning phase
- small scale operations

or

- mine operations of all sizes to support and enhance their emergency response plans and emergency response services with the sharing of resources



Legislative Requirements

The Occupational Health and Safety Act:

Sect. 25

(2) Without limiting the strict duty imposed by subsection (1), an employer shall, . . .

(h) take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker;

Regulation 854, Mines and Mining Plants:

Sect. 17

(6) The owner of a mine shall make available training facilities and workers to be taught and trained in mine rescue work at the expense of the owner;

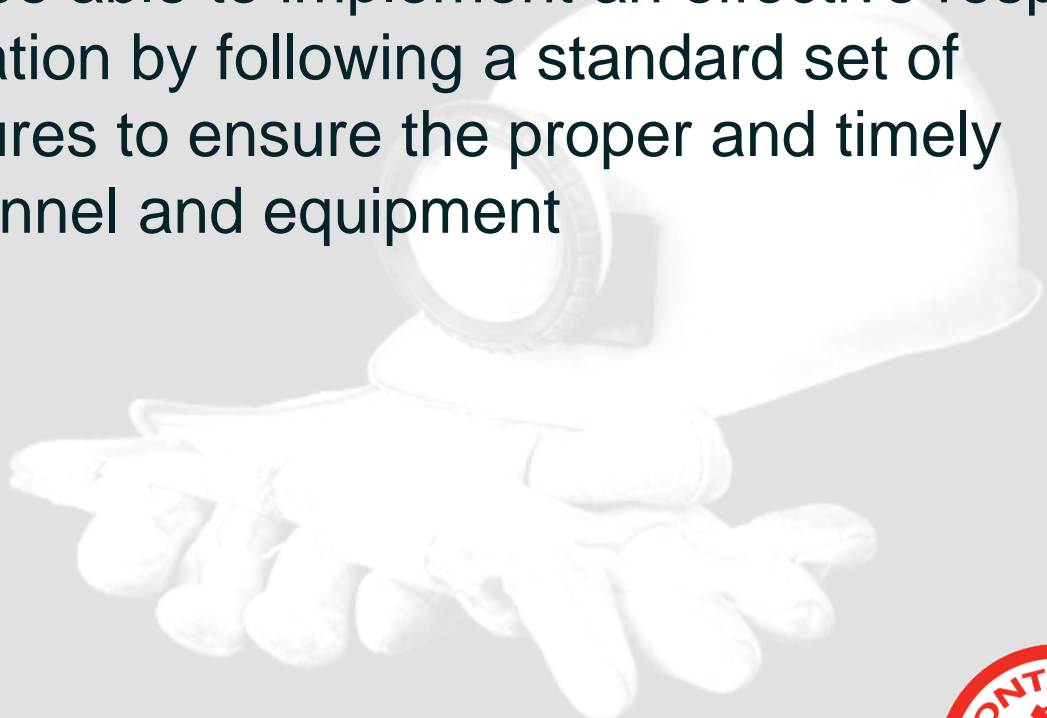
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

Mutual Aid Agreements for Mine Rescue, Document 12-04-11



Responsibilities

All Ontario mine operations, whether managed by the owner or a contractor, must be able to implement an effective response in an emergency situation by following a standard set of practices and procedures to ensure the proper and timely co-ordination of personnel and equipment



Risk Assessment

For any mine operation the decision to enter in to a mutual aid agreement should be made on a case by case basis with a clear understanding of:

- The context of the mutual aid agreement
- The risks associated with the MAA
- An assessment of those risks
- Controls to treat those risks
- A plan to monitor, review and consult about the MAA



MAA Content

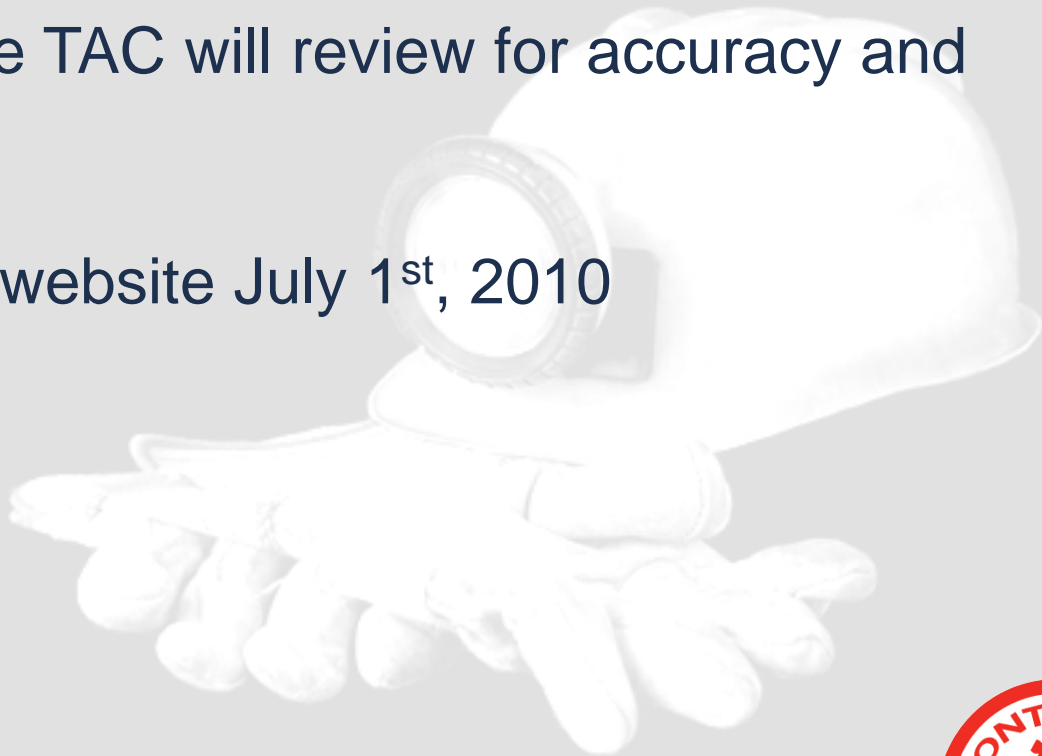
Considerations should be given to the following:

- I. Level of Aid – what will be provided
- II. Assistance Activation – terms of engagement
- III. Assistance Termination – terms of cessation
- IV. Cost Recovery – all associated costs
- V. Operational Matters – people, responsibilities, preparation
- VI. Liability / Insurance – receiver / provider
- VII. Agreement Maintenance – review / revise
- VIII. Arbitration / Dispute Resolution – terms?
- IX. Term – length of agreement



Guideline Status / Circulation

- The MAA Guideline is currently in “draft form”
- The Mine Rescue TAC will review for accuracy and completeness
- Posted on WSN website July 1st, 2010



Questions

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