

Pre-shift Task Training
for
Refuge Chambers



Topics

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When and how often do we inspect refuge chambers?

- ❖ Section 75.360 Pre-shift Examinations at Fixed Intervals
- ❖ This section requires that the refuge chambers be examined as part of the pre-shift examination.
- ❖ The scope of this examination covers what the manufacturer recommends on a weekly examination.

What is required during the pre-shift examination?

- ❖ Pressure Gauges need to be inspected
- ❖ A chart will be posted on the chamber that indicates initial pressure readings and minimum pressure readings.
- ❖ Check for consistent loss or gain in pressure readings.
- ❖ In the event that a consistent loss or gain in pressure is discovered, notify the responsible person immediately.

What is required during the pre-shift examination?

- ❖ Red zone is free of debris
- ❖ Tamper proof seals are intact and seal number is correct.
- ❖ Entrance door not damaged.
- ❖ No physical damage to unit.
- ❖ Life line clearly indicates location of refuge chamber.
- ❖ Communications / Tracking visual exam

Pre-shift Examination

- ❖ Any deficiencies found during the preshift exam that makes the unit inoperable requires immediate action including notifying the responsible person .

Tamper Proof Seals

❖ If tamper proof seal is damaged or missing:

1. Notify the responsible person.
2. Make complete inspection of supply box, and first aid contents inside.
3. Upon finding required contents to be present and in good condition, replace tamper proof seal immediately and record new tamper proof seal number.

Recording Examination Information

- ❖ Date Board located at each refuge chamber
- ❖ Record pressure gage readings and tamper proof seal number in preshift exam book.

Training

- ❖ Miners review the procedures for deploying refuge chambers during quarterly ERP training.
- ❖ On an annual basis and within 90 days of being hired all miners must participate in realistic experience of deploying and using a refuge chamber (expectation training).

Training

- ❖ All miners required to move refuge alternatives must have specialized task training completed and documented.
- ❖ All miners inspecting and performing repairs on refuge alternatives must have specialized task training completed and documented.

Training

- ❖ Refuge chambers must be located on the sections within 1000 feet of the working faces.
- ❖ Refuge chambers cannot be located within direct line of sight of the working face (they must be located in a crosscut).

Training

❖ Rescue chambers cannot be across from, nor closer than 500 feet from the following:

1. Belt drives
2. Take-ups
3. Transfer points
4. Air Compressors
5. Explosive Magazines
6. Seals
7. Entrances to abandoned areas
8. Fuel, oil, or other flammable material storage

Summary / Comments

- ❖ Refuge chambers are a last resort.
- ❖ If the ability to evacuate in the event of an emergency is not available, the refuge chamber can buy you more time.
- ❖ Maintaining and properly positioning the refuge chamber is imperative.
- ❖ A responsible person, such as the section foreman should always oversee the movement of a refuge chamber.

Summary / Comments

- ❖ Upon the completion of each and every move, a complete examination of the refuge chamber is required including opening of the entrance door and replacing the seal.
- ❖ This examination after the move is to be conducted in the same manner as a pre-shift examination.

Summary / Comments

- ❖ Accurate records should be kept both outside and at each refuge chamber location.
- ❖ Training should be incorporated that includes both quarterly reviews and annual realistic training of deployment and use of the refuge chambers.

Summary / Comments

- ❖ Mine ventilation and escapeway maps must include locations of all refuge chambers. Maps must be updated within 24 hours of moving a refuge chamber.
- ❖ A six month inspection by the manufacturer is required.