

2014 New Mexico Mining Association Awards

The winner of this year's **Safety Innovator Award**, **Duran Bokich Enterprises**, is a perfect example of empowering employees to participate in and collaborate on decisions that qualitatively affect their own safety and well-being.

“If you want to know how to get employees to buy into your safety program and safety culture, set them a challenge,” said Conrad Bokich, in a presentation describing the events that led his company to devise an innovative zip-line solution to the problem of moving more than 10 tons of materials by hand across a steep, inaccessible canyon for an Abandoned Mine Reclamation project.



Terence Foreback, State Mine Inspector, and Conrad Bokich of Duran Bokich Enterprises

Intrepid Potash's West Mine was the winner of the **Safe Operator of the Year** award in the category of Underground Metal and Non-Metal Mining. **Intrepid North also won a Safe Operator of the Year award**, in the category of Metal and Non-Metal Mills. Robert Baldrige, General Manager for New Mexico Operations, described two overriding factors in creating the culture of safety that exists at Intrepid Potash - trust and confidence.



Pictured above are representatives of Intrepid West, and to the left are representatives of Intrepid North

Peabody New Mexico Services LLC was also a winner twice over, with the **Safe Operator of the Year** award in the category of **Surface Coal category** presented to Peabody's **El Segundo Mine** and the **Safe Operator of the Year for Non-Producing Operations** awarded to Peabody's **Lee Ranch Mine**. The company's employees also had not one, but two submissions for the Safety Innovator of the Year award, a fact about which W.J. "Cotton" Jarrell, Safety Manager, appeared very enthusiastic.

Jarrell said Peabody utilizes the SLAM Risks Process (it stands for Stop, Look, Analyze and Manage,) to encourage employees to actively examine their work environment and empower them to take action when needed.



Employees of Peabody El Segundo Mine accept Safe Operator of the Year award



Employees of Peabody Lee Ranch Mine accept Safe Operator of the Year award

In the category of Surface Metal and Non-Metal Mining, the **Safe Operator of the Year** award went to **Freeport-McMoRan's Tyrone Mine**. Mitchell Kruger, Manager of Health and Safety for Freeport-McMoRan, said employees at every level of the company are involved in creating processes and developing policies.



A team from Freeport-McMoRan's Tyrone Mine accept the 2014 Safe Operator of the Year Award for Metal and Non-Metal Mining,

That philosophy also holds true at the smallest company to receive the **Safe Operator of the Year** award, **Bartoo Sand & Gravel**. Bartoo's employees start every shift with what he calls a "tailgate meeting" where they discuss safety concerns from wind and dust to lightning and the potential for flooding.



Howard Bartoo directs an emergency response drill at his company's crusher site.

If the tailgate metaphor brings to mind the sport of football, that's because safety is a team effort – and it's an approach that has resulted in an injury frequency rate of exactly zero for the company.

The **Mosaic Surface Rescue Team** was honored for leaping to the rescue of flood victims in the Lakewood community last fall and for working to free a fellow employee trapped by a warehouse collapse. John Anderson, HSS Manager for Mosaic Potash Carlsbad, described the flood situation, with local first responders having sunk their own boats, a 12 foot wall of water expected before day's end and a diverse group of railroad workers, retirees and their pets stranded in three feet of water.



Mosaic's Surface Rescue Team includes Steve Rennie, David Harkness, Joel Onsurez, Benny Ortega, Shawn Downing, Fernando Martinez, Ray Methola, David Sedillo, Omar Cordova, Jacob Juarez and Guillermo Gomez.

San Juan Coal Company's Surface Mine Rescue Team was honored for their fast and professional response when a fellow coal miner experienced cardiac arrest six levels down in the plant, and for their dedication to the rigorous training that enabled them to preserve the life of their colleague that day. The team includes Lexcey Arviso, Gene Francis and Shaun Harris.



Members of the **Emergency Response Team at Peabody's El Segundo Mine** were also honored for their prompt and decisive response to an emergency involving a colleague, in this case one who suffered a fall and had to be stabilized and evacuated from the site via a steep 800 foot incline.



Peabody El Segundo's Emergency Response Team includes Marc Chavez, Beatrice Montano, Rex Good and James Frances.

Mine Rescue Personnel at Intrepid Potash's West Mine were honored for their systematic and focused response to an emergency where smoke from a conveyor belt drive necessitated the temporary evacuation of 22 underground miners. In nominating them for the award, Randy Logsdon, Intrepid's Senior Safety Advisor, gave special recognition to the high level of preparedness and teamwork exhibited by the team.



Johnny Rodriguez accepts the award for the Intrepid team, which includes Josh Nichols, Floyd Florez, Johnny Rodriguez, Jared Walterscheid, Tylar Paslay, Isaac Hernandez, David Gonzalez, Brandon Cummings, Stephen Thatcher, Anthony Dominguez, Terry Walker and Robert Paslay.

Finally, **221** certificates were awarded to departments of mining companies throughout the state who achieved a **Zero Injury Frequency** for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Congratulations to all the award and certificate winners.