U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
201 12th Street South, Suite 401
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452

We received the following question:

Q. May fire departments apply for a Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety grant? If so, are there any specific items they are allowed to apply for?

A. As public entities, local and regional fire departments may be eligible for a Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety grant. The application must focus one of the following MSHA priorities for the education and training of miners or creating training materials:

> Occupational hazards caused by exposures to respirable dust and crystalline silica, powered haulage and mobile equipment safety, mine emergency preparedness, mine rescue, electrical safety, contract and customer truck drivers, lack of training for new and inexperienced miners (including managers and supervisors performing mining tasks), pillar safety for underground mines, lack of personal protective equipment (including falls from heights), and other programs to ensure the safety and health of miners. MSHA is interested in supporting programs emphasizing training on miners' statutory rights, including the right to be provided a safe and healthy working environment (including Part 90 miners), to refuse an unsafe task, and to have a voice in the safety and health conditions at the mine.

As some fire departments are mine rescue teams or assist mine rescue teams, these applicants could propose training activities or create training materials to implement mine emergency preparedness and mine rescue activities for local mines.

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