

## When You Need First Aid - Will It Be Available?

### **MSHA's 30 CFR 56 Subpart N - Personal Protection states:**

#### **.15001 First Aid Materials.**

Adequate first-aid materials, including stretchers and blankets, shall be provided at places convenient to all working areas. Water or neutralizing agents shall be available where corrosive chemicals or other harmful substances are stored, handled, or used.

#### **.18009 Designation of person in charge.**

When persons are working at the mine, a competent person designated by the mine operator shall be in attendance to take charge in case of an emergency.

#### **.18010 First aid.**

An individual capable of providing first aid shall be available on all shifts. The individual shall be currently trained and have the skills to perform patient assessment and artificial respiration; control bleeding; and treat shock, wounds, burns and musculoskeletal injuries. First aid training shall be made available to all interested miners.

#### **.18012 Emergency telephone numbers.**

Emergency telephone numbers shall be posted at appropriate telephones.

#### **.18013 Emergency communications system.**

A suitable communication system shall be provided at the mine to obtain assistance in the event of an emergency.

#### **.18014 Emergency medical assistance and transportation.**

Arrangements shall be made in advance for obtaining emergency medical assistance and transportation for injured persons.

### ***When you are evaluating your own first aid plan, consider the following factors:***

- Location and availability of medical facilities and emergency services
- If life-threatening injuries can reasonably be expected, trained personnel must be available within four minutes. This generally means community emergency medical services cannot be relied on, because their response time is usually longer than four minutes.
- If serious injuries other than life-threatening injuries can be expected, the response time for trained personnel is extended to 15 minutes.
- Trained first aid responder(s) should be designated and workers should know who they are and how to contact them, so they can respond within the required time.
- Availability of medical personnel to consult on occupational health issues.
- Types of accidents that could reasonably occur at the workplace.
- Response time of external emergency services.
- Number of employees and the location of employees
- If corrosive materials are in use at any place in the workplace.
- If there are any industry specific requirements.
- Which first aid supplies should be available.
- What level(s) of training should be provided, and which worker should be trained.
- In Alaska, many mines are in remote areas, often with unmarked roads. Will the emergency service personnel that you rely on know how to find your operation? Visit your local EMS and give them a map to your facility.