Dräger to Support the National Mine Rescue Contest
Celebrating a Century of Collaboration

Pittsburgh, PA – Draeger Safety, Inc. will support the National Mine Rescue Contest sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration on October 3 – 6, in Columbus, Ohio. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Mine Rescue Contest, Dräger products have been utilized by rescue teams since the first National Mining Contest held in 1911 at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, PA. As in past years, Dräger will demonstrate its advanced portfolio of products for mine safety and rescue.

“Dräger has a proud history of collaboration with the mining community, dating back more than a century,” says Ralf Drews, President and CEO of Draeger Safety, Inc. “We have made it our mission to provide the best possible safety solutions for miners and protection of their property. Working closely with the mine rescue teams, we developed the first closed-circuit breathing apparatus in 1904, opening a new era in mine safety and rescue.”

Draeger Safety was originally established as the first U.S. sales office of Dräger in New York City in 1907, to sell and service breathing apparatus used by miners and firefighters. A few months later, the company moved to Pittsburgh, today’s headquarters for Draeger Safety, Inc.

The Mine Rescue Contest puts teams through a simulated disaster drill to locate people trapped inside a mine and bring them out safely. The contest provides an opportunity for team members to practice rescue skills. “When they get the call, responders need to know that they can count on their team members – and they can rely on their equipment,” explains Drews. “Our long history of continuous product development and innovation has been based on input from our customers in the mining industry.”

Dräger will showcase its latest products for mine safety and rescue at the October event. The company will exhibit its state-of-the-art ChargeAir System, a system designed to enhance the emergency response plan and capabilities of underground teams. Part of a custom underground self-contained breathing
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apparatus (SCBA) refill system, the units are not exchanged during an escape when visibility is minimal and the atmosphere is toxic. Instead, the units are recharged while donned and rescuers continue to breathe clean air.

Dräger will also preview its newest self-contained rescue system (SCSR) that will be launched in the U.S. next year. Called the Oxy 6000, the unit delivers oxygen to the user, providing air escape time of up to 60 minutes. The Oxy 6000 offers the lowest breathing resistance and automatically starts when opened and donned.

With its focus on safety and prevention of incidents, Dräger will also exhibit its portable gas detection equipment in the Dräger X-am portfolio. The latest product, the X-am 5000, was recently approved by the Mining Health and Safety Administration. Dräger will feature other products for operational health and safety including the upgraded PSS BG Plus, a closed-circuit breathing apparatus that is particularly suited for long-term operations in toxic environments.

“Our philosophy has always been to ask the people who use our products what they want and need,” says Drews.

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Dräger is an international leader in the fields of medical and safety technology. Dräger products protect, support and save lives. Founded in 1889, in 2010 Dräger generated revenues of around EUR 2.18 billion. The Dräger Group is currently present in more than 190 countries and has about 11,000 employees worldwide. Please visit www.draeger.com for more information.

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