



NEWS RELEASE

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**AMERICAN ENERGY CORPORATION FIRE BRIGADE MEMBERS
COMPLETE ADVANCED FIRE RESPONSE TRAINING**

Ongoing training a vital component of safety programs at all of Murray Energy Corporation's independent operating subsidiary companies

(Beallsville, OH – March 30, 2009) – Two teams from the American Energy Corporation's Century Mine fire brigade recently completed advanced training in mine fire emergency response. The intensive training, which included live-fire exercises, is only considered suitable for fire brigades that already have substantial expertise and skill.

Century Mine fire brigade members Mike Compher, John Frye, Don Little, Mike Newsom, Mike Planey, Rick Wilson and Bill Cutlip participated in the rigorous two-day training at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, West Virginia, March 5 and 6. Fire brigade members Tim Mann, Brandon Muncy, Cameron Nichols, Jim Sebroski, Mark Shaffer, Larry Tingler and Rick Turner completed the same training March 19 and 20.

Mine fire brigades are all-volunteer, specially-trained teams of miners who function as first responders onsite in the event of a mine fire – a rare occurrence but one of the most dangerous hazards at a mine. Murray Energy Corporation, parent company of the Beallsville-based American Energy Corporation, has fire brigades at all of its mines.

“We take the safety of our miners very seriously and our fire brigades are a vital part of our safety systems,” said Rob Murray, vice president of business development and external affairs at Murray Energy Corporation. “We believe our fire brigades are among the best anywhere and we are very proud of the Century Mine fire brigade and their ability to excel at this level.”

During the training, Century Mine fire brigade members were confronted with multiple mine fire emergency scenarios, each of which demanded they determine the best course of action under the given circumstances to safely evacuate the mine and extinguish the blaze. During one exercise, brigade members donned self-contained breathing apparatuses and fire-fighting gear in a simulated mine with zero visibility and temperatures up to 1000 degrees.

In other scenarios meant to hone split-second decision making skills, team members were confronted with live fires and used various pieces of fire-fighting equipment to extinguish the fire. Leadership and teamwork were essential to the successful completion of each exercise – just as they are essential to responding to an actual mine fire or other emergency.

“It’s important to remember that all members of our fire brigades volunteer to be part of those elite teams,” said Murray. “Fire brigade members take that responsibility very seriously because they know their actions could save the lives of their fellow miners. They wear this responsibility as a badge of honor.”

Murray said the advanced training at the National Mine Academy is part of a comprehensive and ongoing safety training program at all of its mines. In addition to the American Energy Corporation, Murray Energy Corporation’s independent operating subsidiaries include The Ohio Valley Coal Company and OhioAmerican Energy, Inc., in Ohio; The American Coal Company in Illinois; KenAmerican Resources, Inc., in Kentucky; and UtahAmerican Energy, Inc., in Utah.

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