

# NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA  
Department of  
Industrial Relations  
News For Immediate Release  
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## STATE TEAM WINS MINE RESCUE COMPETITION

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 10, 2007 . . . . . A State of Alabama team has won the Alabama Mine Rescue, First Aid, Benchman, and Pre-Shift Competition for the first time in the 31-year history of the event.

“Six of the eight members on that winning team are Alabama Department of Industrial Relations employees,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. “Having recently reached full funding for our Mine Safety Program for the first time helped make that possible.”

The six team members from Industrial Relations are: Robert Cagle, Donnie Elliott, David Keeton, Ken Knight, Terry Shelton, and Eddie Sides. The other two team members, P.R. Jones and Jack Rexroad, are from private industry.

“Industrial Relations is required by state and federal law to maintain two state mine rescue teams,” says Michael Skates, Mining and Reclamation Division director. “Through a cooperative agreement with Industrial Relations, Bevill State Community College in Sumiton coordinates the training of the two teams under the direction of our agency.”

The mine rescue competition is held annually at Bevill State.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.