MEMS – The Mine Event Management System. A process to assist with Incident Management

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ABSTRACT

The Mine Event Management System provides structure and coordination in the management of mine events. It assists with the skills and knowledge for incident control teams to effectively manage any emergency or non-emergency event, be it large or small.

It has long been recognised that knowledge of the conditions existing in a mine after an incident is essential in deciding whether or not to deploy responders as part of the incident recovery process. Applying this knowledge in a structured manner to the assessment and the acceptability of the risks likely to be faced by those teams during response activities before authorising their deployment is an onerous task incumbent upon the person controlling the incident response.

In cases where multiple organisations are involved, the Mine Event Management System promotes effective joint operations through the use of common terminology and structure to provide seamless communication between agencies at all operational levels.

The SQL based software that QMRS has developed, assists decision makers to make considered options; it does not make decisions for you. When set up, it allows the information that already exists within a mine's Safety Management System that is relevant to the incident to be accessed and considered rapidly within the pressured environment of an emergency. Secondly, the incident specific questions contained within MEMS focuses the management team on gathering and assessing information relevant to the incident as it progresses. The software's event log can be utilised as an auditable document for post incident investigation..

At any time during the event, the management team can generate reports to assess what information is currently known and what still needs to be gathered. They can generate a running log of the status of the incident and can provide situation update emails to selected people from within the program.

The Mine Event Management System provides a process to properly consider the adequacy of the information available upon which decisions have to be made, to consider and acknowledge the hazards of the environments within or adjacent to which responders will need to work and to acknowledge and authorise the entry of responders into or to remain within a mine either during or post an incident occurring, once an acceptable level of risk is achieved.