

**RE: Informational Bulletin on Diesel-Powered Equipment
Best Practices for Diesel-Powered Emergency Fire Fighting
Equipment – Section 401**

The Bureau of Mine Safety is issuing the following informational bulletin for guidance concerning diesel powered emergency fire fighting equipment as referred to in Section 401 of Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act.

Diesel-powered emergency fire fighting equipment including fire cars, foam generators, and water-pumps do not require Department diesel approval but do require periodic inspection and maintenance to ensure that they are ready for use during any emergency. The following is a list of recommended **best practices** to ensure that the equipment is ready for emergency use and to ensure that miners are not exposed to unnecessary emissions during these periodic tests. The Bureau recommends:

- *that each mine develop a standardize set of testing procedures or checklist that is unique to each piece of equipment, thus ensuring that all periodic checks are performed in the same manner by all personnel,*
- *that all equipment to be used underground uses the same low sulfur fuel as required by the Act,*
- *that an EPA approved fuel stabilizer be used since the fuel in these units may remain for a long period of time between operation or refueling,*
- *that units operated underground in a non-emergency status (performing periodic or maintenance functions)be located in an area where diesel emissions can be ventilated directly to the return air-course, and*
- *where units cannot be ventilated directly to a return air course, constant monitoring for CO, NO, and NO₂ should be conducted during the period of time that the engines are operating.*

All mining equipment used underground must have Departmental approval that is obtained through the normal equipment approval process.