

## The 'Mines Rescue Service'

The formation of the 'Mines Rescue Service' followed a substantial loss of life in Coal Mines during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It was noted that the predominance of fatalities was not due to the initiating fire or explosion but to the devastating effects of various gases permeating the mine ventilation system. The resulting Royal Commission on



Mines recommended that, a suitable breathing apparatus be sourced, suitable personnel be selected and trained to wear this breathing apparatus for rescue purposes and that suitable premises be established to house rescue equipment and train those selected personnel in the use of breathing apparatus and rescue techniques.

The establishment of a 'Mines Rescue Service' in the United Kingdom occurred in 1906 where colliery owners acted together for the first time to provide and operate their own district mines rescue services. Following nationalisation of the coal industry in 1947, the mines rescue service was also brought under the banner of the National Coal Board, thereby, ensuring operating and financial stability for the whole of the nationalised industry. This situation continued until 1996, where, following privatisation of the coal mining industry, the mines rescue service was transferred into the private sector as 'Mines Rescue Service Ltd.' a not for profit organisation.



Since then, Mines Rescue Service Ltd. have developed into one of the foremost Health & Safety training and rescue company's in the country and have extended their product range to not just the coal industry but to all industry's where their specialist knowledge is required.

Operating from, six training centres nationwide, they currently train fire brigades as well as other rescue services from private industry, whilst supporting many companies in the utility, chemical and power sectors.

**MRSL will always be "A national company with local roots"**