

I am a researcher for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Office of Mine Safety and Health Research (OMSHR). We are conducting a research study on how confident your mine workers are in their own ability to escape a mine emergency. We are recruiting mines who will let us administer a brief survey to their mine workers to learn more about this topic. These answers will help direct us in our efforts to enhance or develop self-escape competency training and assessment.

As a member of mine management, we're asking your assistance in making this survey available to your mine workers so they have the option to voluntarily participate. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes of the employees' time and can be completed anytime during the workers' shift or scheduled safety trainings. Participants' names will not be recorded. The data that employees provide will remain anonymous and secure. No information provided will be linked to you or your organization.

Cooperation by survey participants is voluntary; and, the participants may decide to stop the survey or refuse to provide responses to any/all questions at any time. There are no individual benefits to participation and employees will not receive compensation or reimbursement for their time. However, long term, this study may provide information that can help mine safety and training professionals to better prepare underground coal miners to respond effectively to emergency situations.

Please let me know if you would be willing to let us administer this survey at your mine. Thank you for your time, consideration, and any assistance you can offer. Please feel free to contact me at 412.386.6133 or CHoebbel@cdc.gov.

Sincerely, Cassandra Hoebbel, PhD