

In the event of an underground emergency, the "Central Mine Rescue" agreement requires two teams of six respond – one in a primary role, the other as backup. The cooperative is run out of Couer d'Alene, Idaho, and puts out a call anytime there's an emergency at one of the member mines. In the case of the Pogo incident, Cummins says Greens Creek was the first to respond that it had a team available.

"This is what they train for and I'm very, very proud of them," Cummins says. "I had more volunteers than I had spots to send."

Cummins says about 20 workers make up the Greens Creek's Mine Rescue Team. Last month they competed in a "Central Mine Rescue" competition in Kellogg, Idaho, pitting workers from the nine member mines against each other in drills and training exercises.

Nobody was hurt in the underground fire at the Pogo Mine. The incident is under investigation by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

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QLD: Struggling to deal with son's death

Extract from Daily Mercury, Mackay, Qld

IT'S been just over a week since Brett and Bonnie Scovell lost their son.

The heartbroken parents grieve heavily for their boy.

Sean Scovell had a great heart and would take the shirt off his back to help anyone.

The 21-year-old was killed on Tuesday, June 5, in a shocking conveyer-belt accident at the Moranbah South Quarry.

Mrs Scovell said she regretted the day Sean traded working with his family at their Biggenden Service Station for a job in the mines.

"I'm just hurt and lost and as a mother I feel empty," she said.



Brett and Bonnie Scovell are distraught after the death of their 21-year-old son Sean in a mining accident.
Photo: Scottie Simmonds BUNSON

Sean was only an hour into his first shift after having time off when he became trapped in a conveyor belt at 7.10pm and as a result was killed. It's been hard for his family in the wake of his death.

"He just lost his life in a very short time," Mrs Scovell said

"I just love him and I miss him and I wish he was home. I wish he never went to the mines."

Tributes and support messages flow into a website page created in his memory.

One writer posted: "Sean without you I would never of made the friends I have... I'm so grateful I met you... I will truly miss that sweet smile... I was very lucky to have a friend like you."

While another tries to come to terms with the loss: "I think about the last time I saw you... Why didn't I take photos... I just wish I could turn back time and make things so different."

Sean was a happy-go-lucky boy who went out of his way help others, Mrs Scovell said.

He was the youngest son with two elder brothers and a sister and Mrs Scovell said he was a great workmate.

The incident is being investigated by the Mines Inspectorate.