

Emergency Mine Refuge Shelter To Be Produced In Beaver, WV

ChemBio Shelter, Inc., Allentown, PA has announced plans to produce its LifeShelter® emergency mine refuge shelter in Beaver, WV. ChemBio has opened a new facility in the Airport Industrial Park in Beaver. “We’ve spent over two hundred thousand dollars in leasehold improvements and other costs to get the building to where we need it to be” says Ed Roscioli, CEO of ChemBio. “The plant looks really good now. We’re shipping shelters.”

The new facility, located on Industrial Park Road, is already in operation. “We are shipping shelters to West Virginia mines,” explains Jerry Piercy, VP of Sales. “The shelters don’t do any good unless they’re in the mine when they’re needed. And we hope they’re never needed, but it’s better to be safe than sorry,” says Jerry.



ChemBio Shelter's facility in Beaver

The LifeShelter® is certified by the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training for use in underground mines. The shelter is designed to protect miners whose escape from the mine is blocked and whose lives depend on surviving in a lethal carbon monoxide environment until they are rescued.

The LifeShelter® plant brings 22 new jobs to the Raleigh County facility. And that's with one shift. “If we get too busy, we can easily add a second shift,” says Lenny Barker, Plant Manager.

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The hermetically-sealed shelter provides a 4-day supply of life-sustaining oxygen and scrubs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere inside the shelter. The complete system - shelter, equipment and supplies - are stored in a steel container that is mounted on a skid for portability. The steel container ensures the contents are protected while in storage, even in the event of an explosion. ChemBio makes a shelter model with a 24 inch high box for low coal.



24 Inch High Steel Shelter Box

The self-contained system can be strategically pre-positioned in a mine. In case of an emergency, miners who can not escape can deploy the system in three minutes. Once inside, they operate the air-processing system to maintain a breathable air supply, for up to 96 hours.

The system includes an airlock entry portal, air-processing equipment, carbon dioxide scrubbing curtains, inside and outside air-quality monitors, drinking water, food bars, emergency lighting, chemical toilet, medical supplies, entertainment pack, and a repair kit. The shelter can be used for up to 20 years by replacing the expired supplies every 5 years.

“We understand that a miner’s first priority in an emergency situation is to escape from the mine. But, if they have no alternative but to barricade, they need a way to survive until a mine rescue team arrives,” says Rick Rutledge, VP of Engineering.

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