**Our pride – Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Division of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.**

The safety of the employees of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. is monitored on an ongoing basis by the employees of the Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Unit who are ready to set off on a rescue mission at any time, both underground, on the surface, in the air and under water. The team includes height rescue specialists and divers. The responsibilities of the unit include disaster management and rescue operations in all divisions of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. during emergency situations, such as fires, rock bursts, wall slides, floods, power and mechanical failures and engineering, chemical and environmental disasters, as well as carrying out numerous preventive duties to ensure reliable, trouble-free execution of the technological processes.

**Figure 5. Responsibilities of the Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Unit**

The Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Division employs 114 persons, including 79 fire fighters and 14 professional mine rescue staff who are supported by approximately 400 perfectly trained mine rescue volunteers who on a daily basis work underground and have very good knowledge of the conditions which are found there. Candidates for the rescue service must have appropriate psychological and physical characteristics: perfect physical fitness, capability of quick decision making, leadership and organisation skills, high psychological resistance, particularly under stress conditions, ability to quickly analyse many different external factors and respond to them properly and – last but not least – excellent collaboration skills to ensure smooth interaction with other team members. The minimum age is 21 and at least one year of mining work experience in one of the Company’s divisions is required.

The Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Unit is on duty for 24 hours seven days a week. The basic team on duty includes:
- At least 13 fire fighters in the Fire Service section;
- 15 rescuers in the Mine Rescue Unit divided into three teams, the shift manager, the rescue equipment mechanic and a rescue physician. The Division has signed agreements with 11 physicians of different specialties including a surgeon, psychiatrist, cardiologist, occupational health specialist and general practitioners. The rescue physician with paramedics and any of the three mine rescue teams can get to the most distant shaft on the surface within 10–15 minutes and, subsequently, within 20–30 minutes reach the most distant site of work underground. The time needed to gather specialist rescue teams is below 60 minutes.

The Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Unit has two specialist sections. One of them is the height rescue section which employs people trained by the rescuers from the Mountain Volunteer Search and Rescue Service (GOPR) and the Tatra Mountain Volunteer Rescue Service (TOPR). The team conducts rescue operations in vertical shafts and shafts with steep incline. The other group are divers prepared to operate in the most difficult conditions under water. In addition to the rescue and prevention operations (including chemical, environmental and technological disasters, fire fighting and restoration of areas affected by fires, rock bursts, wall slides, floods, floods and all kinds of power and mechanical failures), the rescuers are also responsible for a range of preventive maintenance duties to ensure uninterrupted, trouble-free execution of the production processes. In 2012, the divers took part in the repair of breakdowns in the Ore Enrichment Division and Polkowice-Sieroszowice Mine and in replacement of the screens on water intakes from the Odra River in Głogów Smelter. Height rescuers are involved in preventive maintenance of holding tanks and shafts and inspection of casing.

In order to be capable of the most effective performance in the most difficult conditions, the Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Unit regularly replaces and upgrades the equipment used. In 2012, tests were carried out in the Rescue Division and in the underground mines of a new wireless communication system called RATRA, used to coordinate the activities of all rescue forces on the site of a disaster, mainly underground. The system can also be used on the surface, particularly when other means of communication fail or are unavailable.
“Iron Bridge” Exercise

The Mine-Smelter Emergency Rescue Unit recognises the value of regular training and exercise which is needed to test the performance of the unit in the most challenging circumstances. On 17 April 2012, a regional tactical and combat training exercise called the “Iron Bridge” took place on the grounds of the former flotation tailings disposal area. The scope of the exercise covered three counties. The scenario assumed leakage of this huge reservoir. The tasks included aid to the victims on site of the disaster and to people at risk of being affected by the sludge released from the tank. Additionally, some of the rescuers were instructed to provide first aid to victims of road accidents and a construction disaster. The rescue operations were highly regarded by the delegate of the Lower-Silesia Marshal Office, the Chief Fire Officer in Wroclaw and other organisers and participants of the exercise.

Voluntary initiatives – employees of KGHM donate blood and bone marrow

Every year 10,000 people in Poland are diagnosed with haemolytic cancers. Half of them die because they can’t find the right bone marrow donor, although some of those deaths could have been avoided. Leukaemia patients are supported by the Anna Wierkska Foundation in Poznań called the “Bone Marrow Gift”. KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. and its employees joined the Bone Marrow Team i.e. a steadily growing group of several hundred people who participate in different sports events wearing characteristic red T-shirts. The red T-shirt is a symbolic response to the “Share Life” call. The Team members disseminate information and encourage the potential donors to register in the database in order to be able to save somebody’s life in the future.

The members of the KGHM Bone Marrow Team include runners, cyclists, volleyball players, rugby players and even a diver. Their presence on the Team is a token of readiness to help people. The amateur competitors often take part in prestigious sports events, such as the largest marathons in Poland, Hamburg or Prague. The cyclists regularly take part in prominent MTB competitions and the prestigious Tour de Pologne race.

Since the emergence of the KGHM Bone Marrow Donors Team, employees have organised a few dozens of voluntary campaigns encouraging people to register in the donor database. As a result, five hundred new names appeared on the database and close to 1,000 people joined the team.

The employees of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. are also honorary blood donors and have founded five Honorary Blood Donor Clubs: Honorary Blood Donors Club of the Glogów Smelter, Honorary Blood Donors Club of the Smelter Black Copper Donors Club ‘Drop of Life’ of the Polkowice-Sieroszowice Mine, Honorary Blood Donors Club of the Legnica Smelter, Honorary Blood Donors Club ‘Copper Drop of Blood’ of the Rudna Mine and the Honorary Blood Donors Club ‘Miner’s Heart’ of the Lubin Mine. KGHM employees have donated hundreds of litres of blood saving many human lives. Blood donation is a source of great satisfaction to our people and for those in need, a priceless gift of life. Our miners and smelters also donate blood to children who are patients of the Bone Marrow Transplant and Haematology Clinic in Wroclaw. In this way, employees of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. help to save the lives of children who suffer from cancer or are victims of accidents. A few hundred people have been voluntarily donating blood in the Company, some of them for more than twenty years.

Tomasz Chmielowiec
President of the Copper Sports Society

The Copper Sports Society – KGHM Bone Marrow Team members are volunteers who, through their sports activities, promote the idea of bone marrow transplantation. The membership of the Company employees in the society is a token of their readiness to help other people. Amateur competitors often take part in prominent sports events and regularly register new potential bone marrow donors. Thanks to the involvement of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A., their number has increased by almost 1,000. With the help of the Company and the Polish Copper Foundation, the Team received uniform attire and advertising materials supporting their activities. The volunteers take part not only in local events, but also in the most prestigious sports competitions across Poland.