

2004 Coal Mine Rescue Rules Question Interpretation

A CARD

Q. Can we use a regulator that has been rebuilt as a temporary stopping?

Yes – mapped as temporary stopping.

Q. Stacking of “Xs” – how do we measure 6 ft distances if you can’t stack the Xs? Does it matter if you put the X next to it, like in the entry or inby/outby?

When we measure map, we use a circle with a center point – put dot on center point of placard and you’ve got a 6’ circle radius.

Q. If you move a regulator and build it as a regulator someplace else, how do you mark on map?

Mark as one line as temporary stopping and “R” to show it is a regulator.

Q. Regarding “verbatim” – if placard were to spell out word “Inches” and you put in quotation marks (“”) is that verbatim or not?

If it is written out Inches then you have to put Inches – no quotation marks, no abbreviations – verbatim is as written on placard.

Q. End of water on placard – how do you map?

Use water symbol – start and end water with symbol and enter any changes in depth.

Q. Moving of pump – does it have to be noted on map?

Do not have to notate on map.

Q. If you have water over knee deep and then pump it, what are you going to find on the other side?

If they pumped water down and there’s no water then you wouldn’t find anything.

Q. Map examiners show two sides of the water and when they grade map, map is docked for not having the backside of the water – so if you pump it there is no backside?

Only reason that it should be on the backside is if you travel in a different direction or if the intent is to have both sides of the water mapped then a level of water less than knee deep should be shown on backside once the water is pumped and team travels through area.

Q. How should light smoke be mapped?

You only have to put light with smoke symbol. No X at beginning or end – just smoke symbol and word light. If placard indicates light smoke on both ends then you must map smoke symbol with word light at both ends.

Q. A regulator found during exploration to be open and was closed by the team, would CLOSED notation be correct?

Yes, Closed Notation, any conditions found must be noted, then final ventilation must be shown.

Q. If the team rebuilds a partially blown out regulator, would rebuilt notation be correct or the symbol for a temporary stopping be required?

There would be no reason for a team to rebuild a regulator it takes all the air for re-ventilation either open cross cut or a temporary stopping.

Q. You have smoke on both sides of overcast; do you have smoke over the overcast?

Yes, if there are no end of smoke placards to end the smoke. For mapping there will not be any smoke symbol over the overcast.

A CARD (Rule 5)

Q. Rule 5, A Card - Extent of Smoke- Was the sketch intended to show only the extent of smoke or also how to map the smoke?

This drawing is for extent of smoke only.

Q. For mapping purposes; when a team tears down a barricade and builds it back, will a notation of "rebuilt" suffice, should it be mapped as a temp. stopping, or noted "converted to temp. stopping"?

Rebuilt will suffice if the team only removes the curtain from the frames of the barricade and then rebuilds it without dismantling the frames.

If the team dismantles any part of the frames of a barricade then the symbol for temporary stopping would be used on the team map when the team rebuilds the structure in any location.

B CARD

RULE 5

Q. Say the bottle when checking apparatus puffs up to 3135 PSI depending on tester – pressure may raise little bit – what's the call on that?

Prior to starting the clock the bottle needs to meet the manufacturer's recommendation.

RULE 23

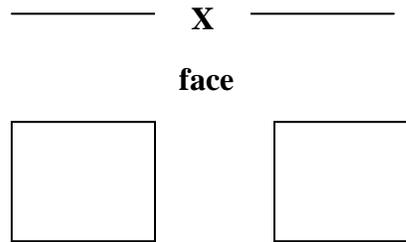
Q. If you have unsafe roof in FAB or stopping in FAB, what's required there?

Anything in FAB is mapped before team arrives and already checked and does not require D&I or gas and roof tests during initial entry work.

Q. Drawing 10 – unsafe roof on corner – you walk up to that intersection and you found that a fire was in the unsafe roof on the corner – what roof test would you do?

A zigzag around this corner would suffice for that area with the fire. Bad Problem Design.

Q. B Card - What's the proper roof test for a face if found like this:



The simulated roof test should be taken from imaginary rib-line to imaginary rib line of the cross cuts, including the face area.

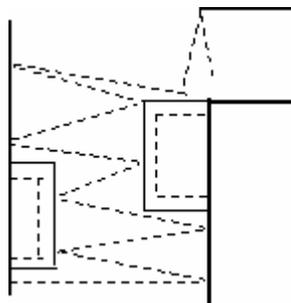
Q. Rule 23, B Card - Roof and Rib Test-The question is how does the captain know which roof test to perform?

If captain can not tell which type roof test, then a zigzag would be a more extensive roof test. (This would also be problem design)

Q. Rule 23, B Card - The theory is that he is not supposed to see in front of his position and that he could start doing a rib-to-rib and encounter the face before the loose roof ties into the rib. The rule says rib-to-rib if it can be done safely.

Then the captain would need to back up and do a zigzag roof test.

Q. Is this the proper roof test when conditions are such?



There are no sketches to address this type of unsafe roof; therefore this would be a bad problem design.

Rule 23

- Q. If two posts are found, are we expected to post to a person if it can be done or do we have the option of waiting to find at least two more posts?



X Person

The person is located in the unsafe roof then it will take 3 timbers to identify live person or body; 4 timbers to recover a live person. If problem designer want the person identified then there should be at least 3 timbers at some location in the problem. **See figure 3 on the PROPER INSTALLATION OF ROOF SUPPORT TO RECOVER A PATIENT.**

RULE 24

- Q. You make ventilation change that does not affect an area, do you have to retest for gas?

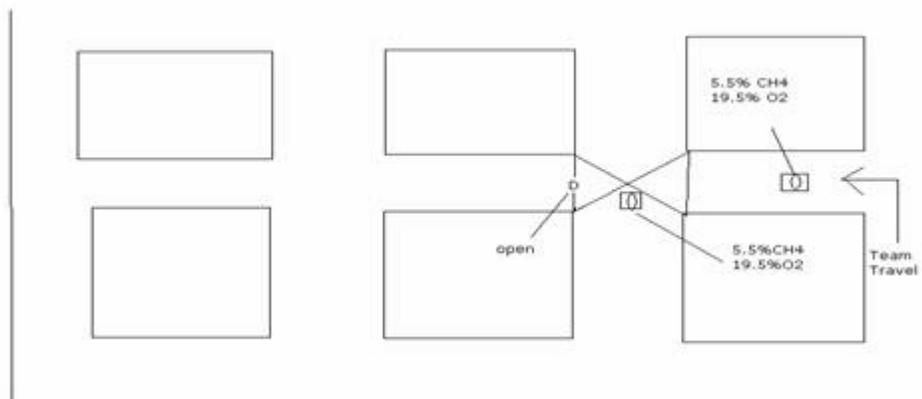
No, reference rule 19 for what a ventilation change is.

- Q. What is the extent of gas for the placard between 3 & 4 toward the overcast? Specifically, is the gas on top of the overcast?

The gas would extend over to the overcast the next area to be tested.

Q. What is the extent of gas for the placard under the overcast with the door open?

The gas would be in the intersection only, the required gas tests would clear the inby the intersection and the crosscut with the door open.



RULE 24 (F)

SEE MAP BELOW

Q. Does the team have to make a gas check in the #2 entry at the placard upon re-entry into this area?

Yes, if one of the following has occurred starting, stopping or redirection of the air current or changes of the constituents.

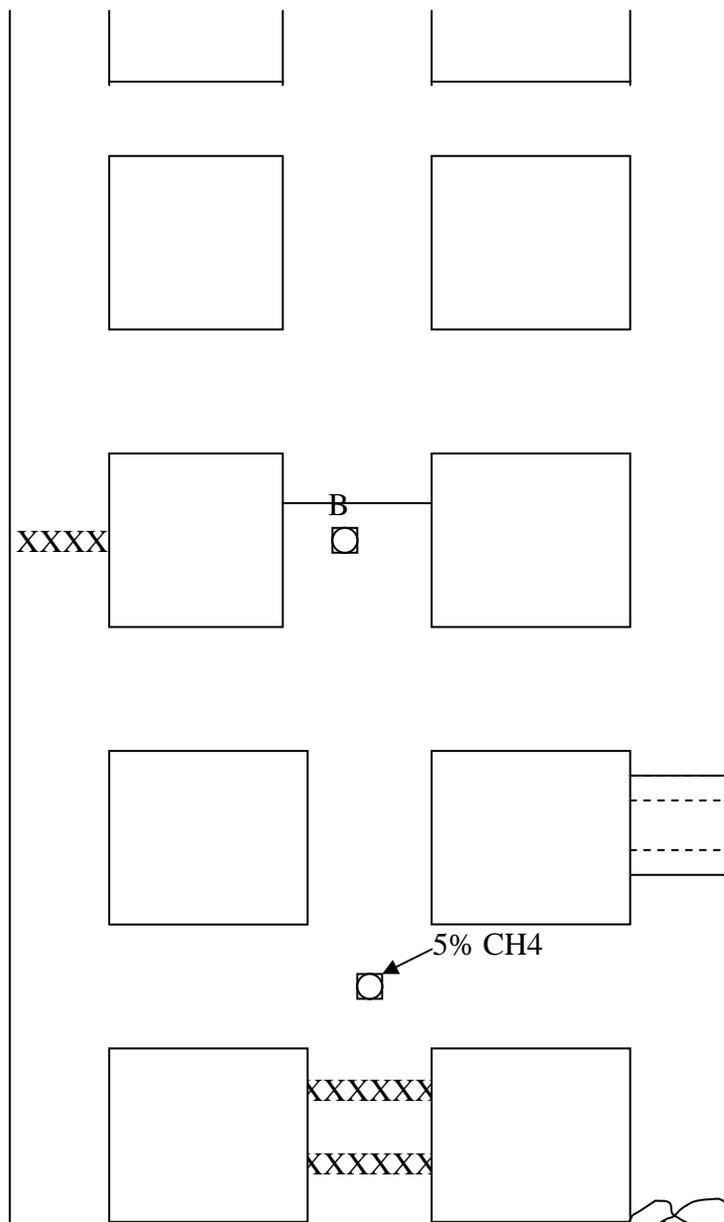
Q. While the team is @ team stop behind the fan, they have the B.O. to stop the fan. Upon re-entry into the #2 entry 1st line of crosscuts is another gas test required @ the gas placard?

Yes, if one of the following has occurred starting, stopping or redirection of the air current or changes of the constituents.

Q. The team is @ barricade in #2 entry, tell the B.O. to start the fan. The team travels back to the #3 entry, back side of the fan. Does the team have to make a gas test at the placard in the #2 entry 1st line of crosscuts?

Yes, if one of the following has occurred starting, stopping or redirection of the air current or changes of the constituents.

SKETCH FOR 24(F)



RULE 27

- Q. Anything you find within the mine already built you have to D&I during initial exploration – the team built stoppings, can you D&I anytime?**

Anything already built you have to D&I during initial exploration – team built stopping you can D&I anytime after you start construction, but before you stop clock or you move the stopping, team built stoppings are the only exception; everything else has to be D&I during initial exploration.

- Q. Can you set all 4 timbers and pass up body before you D&I or set 2 timbers and reach in?**

You need to set at least 3 timbers. If you pass the body, you will get docked.

- Q. If you're showing person when you start to set timbers, at what point do we show team a body or live person?**

No rule on it, encourage that when you touch person, it should be revealed at that point.

RULE 28

- Q. If you had problem with shaft in it, where would the 50' check be?**

The 50' check would be once you get to bottom – 50' off the elevator.

RULE 31

- Q. If you find an energized cable in an explosive mixture requiring retreat to FAB, do you have to stop clock or if you were able to de-energize power can you do that and continue problem?**

No, the power cannot be de-energized to change a withdrawal situation – once it's a quitter – it's a quitter. It would create too many variables.

RULE 31(B)

- Q. Statement says there are batteries in mine on section and you find an explosive mixture in the mine, is this a withdrawal situation?**

No –31(B) states you have to find batteries in an explosive mixture to make it a withdrawal situation.

Q. 31(B) Energized cable has to be found in an explosive mixture, not just going into but found in.

Yes

Q. Would you treat energized cable the same way you would smoke?

No, energized cable has to be found in the explosive mixture.

RULE 42

Q. If you enter barricade and you have conscious person and you remove barricade and find timbers you need to access a person under unsafe roof, can you stop and timber, then check that person on way out or do you remove person from barricade first?

You have to remove person from barricade first.

Q. If you had posts and you're going out by a person and you walked by him and drop the posts at that location on way by, would that be considered additional work?

No, it would not be if that were on your route of travel.

Q. Normal team stop – you enter barricade on team stop and you find timbers and there's a person out by in unsupported top you can get to in that same team stop, would that be "normal work" you can do at that team stop? Is the team allowed to do everything they can on team stop without retreating or advancing?

That's true – whatever you can do at that team stop. If you can reach 2nd patient and have material to do so during that stop you can get him, but if take chance and they both need apparatus and you only have one, then that's your loss.

- Q. Rule 42 (A) of the 2004 Coal Mine Rescue Rules says " when a team finds a patient(s), either by visual or verbal contact, every effort must be made to remove them safely and promptly to the fresh-air base. Visual contact will require the captain's presence in the area." Would it be possible to get a clearer definition of "in the area". I assume that vision would be blocked by unsafe loose roof or water over knee deep. Normally we are to assume we cannot see in advance of the teams progress, however, once I have breached a barricade can I see the patient?**

Visual contact of a patient is treated the same as mapping objects. If a patient is in advance of the point that the captain has traveled then the team cannot see the patient. If the team has made verbal contact with a patient behind a barricade, then the patient is considered to be found even though the captain has not established his presence in the area of the patient. If the barricade is opened and verbal contact has not been established with the patient, then the captain cannot see the patient until his route of travel brings him perpendicular to the patient's position.

RULE 42 (C)

- Q. "As soon as means and /or materials are available"
If the teams has located a person behind a barricade and can not ventilate because needed brattice materials are not available at that time and upon exploration that encounter the brattice material needed to ventilate. Does the team have to stop prior to the #5 team member passing the material, get the material and ventilate?**

Yes, but the team may perform any function during this team stop.

RULE 43

- Q. If you have guy behind barricade and you have dotted line – what does this guy have to tell you before you don't have to build airlock to go in?**

He'd have to tell you that it's a solid face, ribs, roof, and floor if dotted line.

- Q. If solid line map?**

He'd still tell you that it's solid face behind him.

Q. If solid line map and there's no communications?

Then you have to airlock.

Q. If you have stopping with hole in it, do you have to build to go through?

No

Q. Rule 43 of the Mine Rescue Rules states that if a person behind a barricade or stopping relays information sufficient to ensure that the ventilation will not be affected, an airlock is not required. What exactly is required to be sufficient?

If the map of the area behind the barricade is solid lines then "there is a solid face behind me" - If the map of the area behind the barricade is dotted lines then "there is solid face, roof, floor and ribs around me" or any type statement that is equivalent.

Q. Rule 43, B Card - Air Lock- Do you have to air lock as shown if you are airlocked outby already?

An airlock is required, before breaching stoppings, doors, seals, barricades, closed regulators or removing water roofed, **if conditions on the other side are unknown. The outby airlocks would not suffice.**

Q. Rule 43, B Card - In other words, if all your entries are sealed at the mouth and no ventilation change occurs would you have to build an air lock to enter the stopping between No. 1 and 2 as shown or would the outby airlocks suffice?

An airlock is required, before breaching stoppings, doors, seals, barricades, closed regulators or removing water roofed, **if conditions on the other side are unknown. The outby airlocks would not suffice.**

If roofed water must be pumped in order to ventilate a section of a mine and the following situations have occurred.

1. The team has explored on all sides of the roofed water.
2. The team has a "solid" line map indicating that the projections are accurate and that there are no unmapped openings above, or below the seam.

3. The ventilation is such that removing the water will not change the course of airflow.

Q. In the above case, does airlocks have to be constructed on either or both sides of the water. It stands to logic that given the situation above, no air movement will occur as a result of pumping the water. However, I have had varying opinions from local contest officials.

The team must airlock prior to pumping the water at the location from which they work to pump the water. This decision follows an interpretation which was provided in 1996, after discussion at the Rules Interpretation Meeting in Beckley, WV, and a review of the information discussed at the Permanent Rules Committee Meeting. Even though the “water roofed” had been explored on all sides, and the removal of such water would not effect ventilation changes, the determination was made that since the area under the water had not been explored, and the captain’s physical presence had not been in the area, that an airlock would be required. Only one airlock stopping is necessary, and it should be built in the area from which the team is working to pump the water, or the location from which the team is waiting to enter the area when the water is pumped.

RULE 45

Q. If you come up #2 entry, 1st intersection has contaminant – are you allowed to go by the accessible opening on right to follow that contaminant on left?

No – if you take the #5 man completely past that accessible opening you have to tie out behind stopping before you can do that.

RULE 45 (C & D)

SEE MAP BELOW

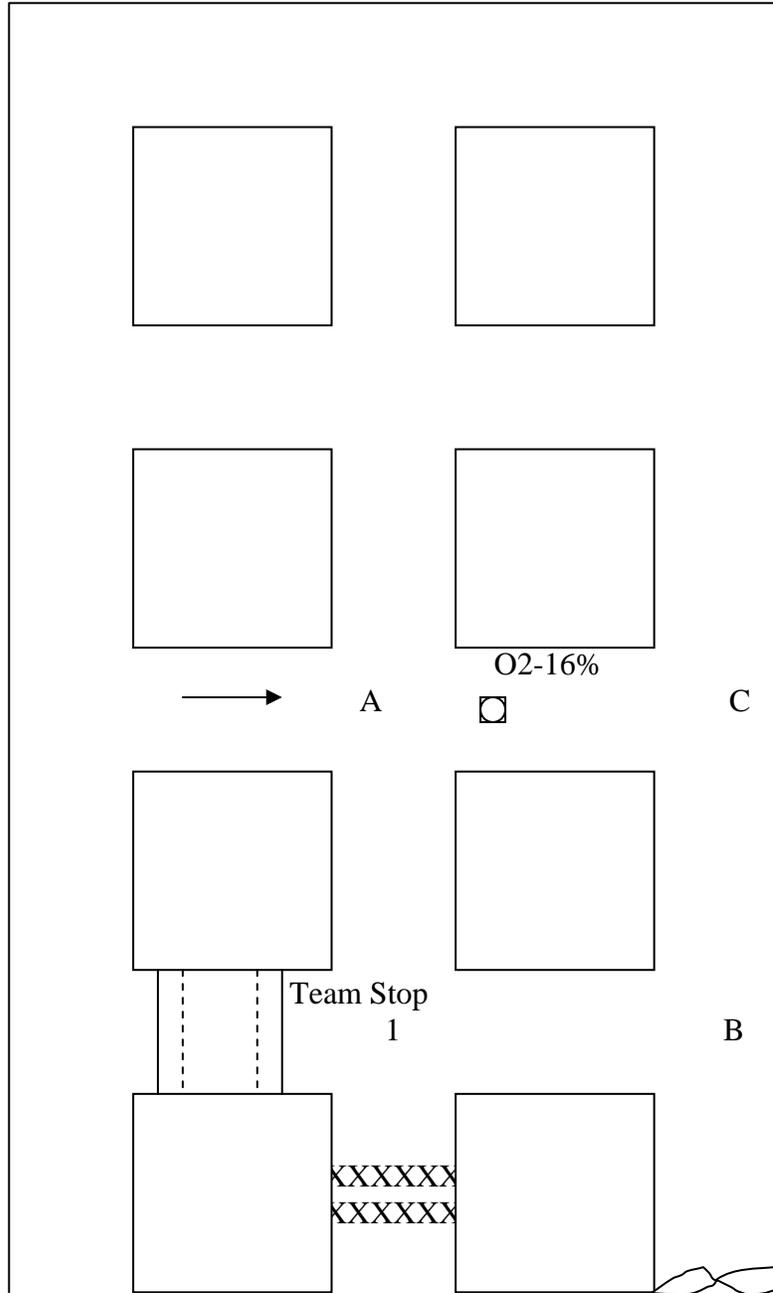
- Q. The team travels into the #2 entry and finds low O₂ at location (A) in crosscut between #2 and 3 entries. The team ties out by in the #2 entry to the caved area. From team stop label #1 can team next move be to the #3 entry location (B)?**

Yes, the team is still tying behind and a cross.

- Q. Can a team advance from location (B) to (C)?**

No, the must travel back to the #2 entry where the low O₂ was encounter and advance through that cross into #3 entry.

SKETCH FOR RULE 45 (C&D)



Rule 46

- Q. Can a partially destroyed “wingwall” on an overcast be rebuilt? Can a completely destroyed overcast be rebuilt? And last, but not least can the material from a completely destroyed overcast be used for stopping material?**

An overcast cannot be rebuilt as an overcast if completely destroyed, but if the materials from the destroyed overcast are on the field they can be used to build temporary stoppings. If a wingwall, overcast or undercast are damaged it cannot be removed or altered by the team according to Rule 46 of the B Card.

RULE 49

- Q. Can you give an example for “Team members holding up brattice cloth in an attempt to clear a contaminant shall be discounted under this rule and the contaminant shall not be cleared”?**

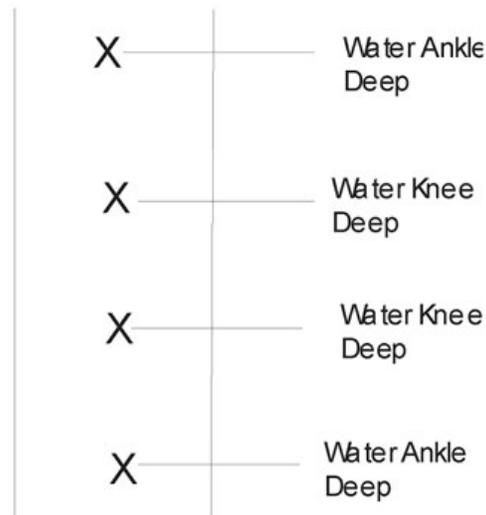
The legend states line curtain (LC) is the designated curtain provided for removing contaminants of explosive gases. Line curtain can only be hand held to remove gases. If brattice cloth is to be used it must be used with frames. That is the reason LC was add to the legend.

RULE 50

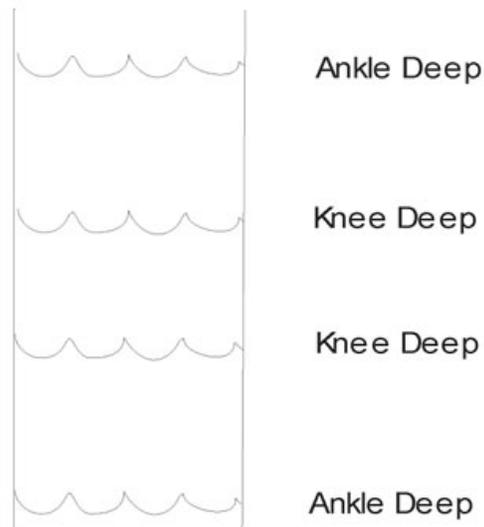
- Q. We would like to know if it is possible for us to affix the name tags to the BG-4 machines as we would like to use the light pouches that will fit on the machine harness. The problem is these machines will have to last for several years and we don't want to have to keep changing the tags every time a team member changes. The tags could be attached by means of a key reign and attached to the webbing that way.**

Velcro, brads, rings, snaps etc. must attach the metal identification tag to his/her belt or the waist belt of the BG-4.

Q. What is the correct way to map these conditions?



The correct way to map these conditions is:



DRAWING INTERPRETATIONS

Summary of questions asked and responses

The drawings for parallel airflow and removal of gases were provided to teams and problem designers in 1998, as a guideline as to how ventilation was expected to be for "all contests". The major complaint from teams at that time was, as they

worked problems at different contests, the expectation of how a problem was to be ventilated, would be different. Some problem designers expected teams to figure resistance, distance, short circuits, and possibly other factors. The drawings were provided to put all teams and problem designers on the same level as to how to ventilate mine rescue problems at "all contest".

DRAWING PAGE 40

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Q. Is the fresh-air base on the surface?

Yes

Q. Why does air travel up Entries 2, 3, & 4?

In reality, when a fan is installed in the NO. 1 Entry, there would be an air movement in the Nos. 2, 3 and 4 entries. The number of crosscuts traveled by the air from where it enters to the fan is five crosscuts regardless if the air travels through entry 2, 3, or 4. Therefore, since the distance is equal there is parallel air flow in all of the entries.

Q. Should we assume that a fan in the Nos. 1, 2, 3 or 4 entries would pull or push air through all other entries if it is a surface base fan?

Yes, if the situation (referring to the location of stopping, is the same as the drawing referred to and the distance from where the air enters the mine and travels through the fan is equal along each path through the fan.

Miscellaneous

- Q. If a pump is found without cable, suction, or discharge line can it be used to de-water?**

Problem design and team briefing should answer this question. Placards, layout, etc. should clearly indicate the pump's intended use.