



FROM: MSA (Mine Safety Appliances Company)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSA Hard Hat Manufactured in Murrysville, Pa. on Exhibit in Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

PITTSBURGH, September 13, 2011 – On a clear October day in 2010, the world watched as 33 miners were pulled to safety after spending 66 days one-half mile underground at the San José Mine in northern Chile. On their heads, as they emerged from the now famous Fénix rescue capsule that brought them to daylight, were hard hats manufactured in Murrysville, Pa. Now, two of these helmets have found their way back to the United States and are on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C.

The V-Gard hard hats, produced by global safety equipment manufacturer MSA (NYSE: MSA) were loaned to the Smithsonian by their owners, miners Carlos Barrios and Jose Henriquez, the thirteenth and twenty-fourth miners to be rescued after being buried alive by a mine collapse on August 5, 2010. The miners were contacted by the Chilean Embassy in Washington D.C., which collaborated with Smithsonian curators to develop the exhibition entitled "Against All Odds: Rescue at the Chilean Mine." The hard hats were among a short list of chief artifacts the Smithsonian was interested in displaying in the exhibit.

The V-Gard hard hats are on display with a variety of other objects including the Fénix 2, one of the steel capsules used to bring the 33 men to safety. Mr. Henriquez's hard hat is displayed on a mannequin inside of the Fénix 2, while Mr. Barrios' hard hat is exhibited inside a glass case where patrons can closely examine the details of the hard hat including Barrios' rescue number "13" written on the side in indelible marker.

(more)

“We take great pride in living our mission: that men and women may work in safety and that they, their families and their communities may live in health throughout the world,” said Rick Suprak, MSA’s Production Supervisor of hard hat molding. “As we watched the news coverage of the 33 men emerging from the mine wearing our hard hats, it gave all MSA employees a great sense of pride and a unique connection with the miners,” he continued. “And now, to have our products displayed in such a prominent and important location as the Smithsonian Museum, we couldn’t be more proud.”

The exhibition began on August 5, 2011, exactly one year after the 33 men were trapped, and will continue through the spring of 2012. Patrons can visit the exhibit in the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. daily.

To view photos of the exhibit, click on the following link: <http://msane.ws/ChileanMinerHardHats>

About MSA:

Established in 1914, MSA is a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of sophisticated safety products that protect people's health and safety. Many of the company's products typically integrate any combination of electronics, mechanical systems and advanced materials to protect users against hazardous or life-threatening situations. MSA's comprehensive line of products is used by workers around the world in a broad range of industries, including the fire service, the oil, gas and petrochemical industry, construction market, the mining industry and the military. Principal products include self-contained breathing apparatus, gas masks, gas and flame detection instruments, head protection products, fall protection systems, respirators and thermal imaging cameras. The company also provides a broad range of consumer and contractor safety products through retail channels. MSA has annual sales of approximately \$1 billion, manufacturing operations on six continents, and 42 international locations. Additional information is available on the company's Web site at www.msanet.com.

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