

## Better Underground Occupational Safety - first trainings have started in Callio Pyhäjärvi

Pyhäsalmi Mine has unique infrastructure for training and risk prevention, is being constructed an underground training, learning, testing, and innovation environment called [Callio Underground Rescue](#).

Located 400 metres -underground there are eight training points already available. Training includes for example navigation underground, evacuation and emergency exiting, controlling risks of fire and dangerous situations and hazards related to vehicles.

In December 2020, the training site was in action for the first time when employees of Pyhäsalmi Mine Oy had a training about how to work in high places. Demanding training site and modern personal fall protection equipment such as vests, grips and ropes ensure safe training. Safety should be the top priority in these kinds of jobs. Accidents that happen in an underground environment have special characteristics.

*“Falling down is one of the most dangerous cause of an accident and it should always be taken seriously because even a short fall causes serious injuries. Callio’s training facilities are excellent for safe training and can be used in many industrial sectors, mast and high environment workers’ and occupational safety trainings.”* – says Ari Piela, instructor of working in a high environment from Kärnä Oy.

[Callio’s](#) underground training facilities also offer communication and safety technology testing opportunities. Testing of fire detectors, extinguishers, and evacuation equipment can be tested too. Technology providers who are involved benefit from practical training of early fire suppression.

*“Our testing needs include for example testing of compartmentation, extinguishing and smoke abatement equipment. For now, our planning of fire safety is based on theoretical and calculated fire tests of international underground sites. Practical training and testing in Callio’s realistic environment will have high interest in near future.”* – says Kimmo Lehtola [Posiva’s](#) site manager.

Callio’s facilities are equipped with a new [Respetra’s](#) underground rescue chamber made of stainless steel. The rescue chamber and the surrounding tunnel network have been entirely 3D scanned. -This digital learning environment makes a totally new way of interaction possible for trainees.

*“Respetra rescue chamber guarantees long operating time and protection for its users without respirator masks. Usage of the chamber can also be trained virtually, and circumstances of the chamber can be monitored remotely which enables excellent preparation for special situations underground.”* – states CEO of Respetra Oy Mauri Lahtela.

Training schedule for 2021 is already been filled quickly. Several companies are involved in Underground Rescue financed by Council of Oulu region. Partners are Pyhäsalmi Mine Oy, Agnico Eagle Finland Oy, Sotkamo Silver AB, Anglo American Sakatti Mining Oy, NIHAK ry, City of Pyhäjärvi, Kerttu Saalasti Institute, Centria University of Applied Sciences, M-Solutions Oy, Posiva Oy and many other Finnish operators. Execution period of the project is between 2019-2021 and its estimated budget is 739 288 €. European Regional Development Fund has financed 70% of the budget.

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