

Surface Coal Facilities— Preparation Plants and Shops



U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration **Health Hazard Information Card HH-46**

Black lung and silicosis are disabling and sometimes fatal lung diseases caused by breathing respirable coal mine dust. Surface facilities present unique problems in controlling dust because of the many dust-generating sources. Crushers, shaker screens, chutes, belt transfer points, and other mining equipment are all potential sources of harmful dust.

ALWAYS:

- Wash down dusty surfaces.
- Keep conveyor belts and walkways free of spills and accumulations.
- Maintain dust controls like exhaust fans and dust collection systems.
- Maintain shrouds, covers, hoods or enclosures over crushers, screens, and at transfer points to confine generated dust.
- Use water or a sweeping compound when sweeping up dust.
- Limit activities in known dusty areas.
- Keep doors/windows in cabs and control booths closed.
- Repair or report defects on door and window seals of cabs.
- Use properly fitted NIOSH-approved respirators when needed. (Remember, MSHA does NOT accept respirators as a primary means of dust control.)

NEVER:

- Use compressed air to clean up dust.
- Remove water sprays, shrouds, covers, hoods or enclosures over crushers and screens, or other dust controls.
- Let dust accumulate in your work area.
- Open doors or windows in cabs, control booths, or other enclosures.

--Remember--
Black lung is NOT curable, but it is preventable!

If you have questions about coal mine health matters, please contact your local MSHA office or see the MSHA website at www.msha.gov.