"Can You See What You’re Breathing?"

Miners can potentially be exposed to many unseen hazards. Mining and milling operations may create harmful gases including, but not limited to, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide. There may also be other unseen hazards such as diesel particulates, welding fumes, emissions from reagents and other chemicals. Prolonged exposure or overexposure can lead to acute or chronic health problems or even death.

**Best Practices:**

- Maintain ventilation to assure adequate air quality.
- Regularly monitor and test air quality.
- Maintain mobile equipment and limit idling to reduce emissions.
- Use feasible engineering controls to minimize exposures.
- Train and educate miners regarding health hazards in the work environment.
- Develop and implement a respiratory protection program that includes training, fit testing and proper filter selection for added personal protection.

*Developed in cooperation with the following Underground Metal Group members:*

Sweetwater Mine/Mill, Doe Run Company, Reynolds County, Missouri (Team Leader)
Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Company, Kennecott Minerals, Juneau, Alaska
Lucky Friday Mine, Hecla Mining Company, Shoshone County, Idaho