

Controlling Dust* for a Healthier Work Environment



Health Hazard Information Card HH-23

Miners Have the Right to:

- Work in an environment where dust levels are kept at or below the legal limits required by MSHA.
- Be trained on dust hazards, dust control plans in effect, and sampling requirements.
- Be provided with NIOSH-approved respirators whenever exposed to excessive levels of dust.
- Review dust sampling results which must be posted on the mine bulletin board for at least 31 days.
- Review the operator's dust control plan posted on the mine bulletin board, if such a plan is required.
- Expect compliance with the MSHA-approved dust control plan during each working shift.
- Free chest x-rays if working in an underground coal mine.
- Transfer to a less dusty job if working as an underground coal miner when a chest x-ray shows evidence of pneumoconiosis (black lung or silicosis).
- Request an MSHA inspection when excessive dust levels are suspected, dust control plans are not followed, or dust samples are not taken properly.

Mine Operators Must:

- Continuously keep dust levels at or below the legal limits required by MSHA.

- Train miners on: the reason for taking dust measurements; the reason for placing dust control plans in effect; and the need for MSHA health regulations.
- Make available NIOSH-approved respiratory equipment to all miners exposed to excessive levels of dust.
- Sample, every other month, all underground coal mines and designated occupations at many surface operations.
- Not open, tamper with, or alter any dust sample required by MSHA.
- Post dust sample results for at least 31 days on the mine bulletin board.
- Comply with all provisions of the MSHA-approved dust control plan.
- Conduct on-shift examinations for compliance with MSHA-approved dust control measures at underground coal mines.
- Provide working underground coal miners the opportunity to have voluntary free chest x-rays.
- Report, within 3 working days, any changes in operational status that affects dust sampling.
- Report to MSHA within 10 working days after they are notified or otherwise learn that a miner has an occupational lung disease, or for which an award of compensation has been made.

*The mention of “dust” on this card refers to respirable coal mine dust—particles tiny enough to inhale and get into the lungs.

If you have any questions about any coal mine health or safety matter, please contact your local MSHA office.

*U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Visit our Web site at www.msha.gov*

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