

# Tips for Dusty Jobs – Baggers



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## Health Hazard Information Card HH-33

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Baggers are exposed to more dust than the typical mine employee. Because mine dust may have silica in it, you should take steps to protect yourself against a possible health hazard.

### **Silicosis Can Be Deadly**

Some dust is stopped by the body's natural defense system, but the smallest dust particles can penetrate deep into the lungs. The harm from dust depends on what it's made of, what size it is, how much you breathe, and how long you breathe it. If you're exposed to enough dust with silica, in time you can get a disease called **silicosis**.

Silicosis can be a disabling, *even fatal*, illness that can't be reversed once a person has it. Lung tissue becomes scarred and inflexible and breathing becomes harder and harder.

**If it's silica ...  
it's not just dust.**

# **Silicosis can't be reversed ... but it can be prevented.**

## **WORKING SMART**

- Spout the bags right to prevent bag blow-offs.
- Don't jog the fill valve to get a bulk sample.
- Don't jerk the bag from the spout – Prevent rooster tail.
- Place filled bags on a pallet – Don't throw them.
- Make sure the bagging machine's dust collector is functioning.
- Don't dry sweep – It puts dust in the air where you can breathe it.
- Compressed air is NOT for cleaning clothes or equipment.
- Use water or a vacuum system with a remotely located exhaust or a HEPA\* filter.
- Keep work area clean – Don't let dust build up.
- Report any maintenance or system problems right away.

## **RESPIRATORS MUST BE...**

- The right type and worn right.
- Clean.
- Worn – not hung on your neck or on top of your hat.
- The right fit to stop dust from getting into your lungs.
- A good fit – Beards prevent it.

\* *High Efficiency Particulate Air  
(always maintain the HEPA filter  
according to manufacturer's instructions)*

**U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
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