

# Tips for Dusty Jobs – Crusher Operators



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## Health Hazard Information Card HH-36

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Crusher operators and crusher helpers 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 and it 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**

- Don't dry sweep – It puts dust in the air where you can breathe it.
- Keep work area clean – Don't let dust build up.
- Use water or a vacuum system with a remotely located exhaust or HEPA\* filter.
- Compressed air is NOT for cleaning clothes or equipment.
- Adjust equipment for best performance and minimum dust.
- Report maintenance or system problems right away.
- When possible, maintain and clean equipment when it's not operating.
- Work upwind of dust clouds or dusty areas.

## **CONTROL BOOTHS**

- Use a heater and an air conditioner with a HEPA filter.
- Keep doors and windows closed for positive pressurizing.
- Check that seals are pliable and intact.
- Clean booth every day.
- Stay in the booth when you can.

## **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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