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Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust

Comment On: MSHA-2014-0031-0185
Requests for Information: Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust

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Comment from Anonymous Anonymous,

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Exposure of underground miners to diesel exhaust is killing coal miners. With the diesel smoke and fumes from the equipment that is so bad sometimes men have to lay down or hold their noses from the smell that chokes their lungs. When diesel equipment is used on slope mines when outside they have to idle for thirty minutes before shut down so engine and smell cool down. Because diesel equipment don't have smoke or fumes going through water which is better to clean smoke now they use paper filters. Which are changed when needed my management because of cost. Equipment is only really serviced when MSHA shows up to check them. Regular inspectors don't really check them as long as it has brakes and lights work they are fine with it. MSHA diesel inspectors only fully check them once a year which is not really a good inspection of equipment. They hold brake pedal down rev up engine to check exhaust so while they check one repair man is working on the rest. Black lung has really come back hard on coal miners now. Because when diesel equipment started hauling miners underground on roadways. They are in more dust such as coal dust, rock dust, diesel smoke. After a two mile ride in and then out coal miners breathing more dust than working in face area. Diesel equipment needs more inspections and back to water scrubbers to keep down smoke. Miners didn't breathe as much dust riding rail equipment to work areas.

MSHA and other agencies need to study the dust smoke etc between rail equipment and diesel equipment. I myself ran a continuous miner in the nineties with diesel ram cars hauling coal behind me. I couldn't breathe good when they were holding engine wide open to pull ram back all the smoke came across miner to vent out behind curtain or tubing. So when diesel equipment is in travel ways all the smoke and heat goes to face area especially when using belt air. I have worked in coal mines for forty years and twenty years as a mine manager. Diesel fumes are killing miners. Do the right thing fix the problem.

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