

“Controlling Respirable Coal Mine Dust in Underground Mines”

July 25, 2007

National Mine Health and Safety Academy

Hosted by: Mine Safety and Health Administration

Co-sponsored by: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Inhalation of excessive levels of respirable coal mine dust causes coal workers' pneumoconiosis or black lung. Likewise, overexposure to respirable silica dust can lead to silicosis. These diseases are debilitating occupational lung diseases that can devastate a miner's quality of life, create a heavy burden on the victim and his or her family, and in some cases lead to premature death. While significant progress has been made since 1970 to reduce dust levels in our nation's coal mines, recent information published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health indicates that miners continue to be at risk of developing coal workers' pneumoconiosis and silicosis. While there is no cure for these disabling lung diseases, they are preventable.

This one-day workshop, which is free to the general public, brings together a group of experts to share their knowledge and experience that will enable the attendees to better understand and prevent disabling occupational lung disease in coal miners. Armed with new knowledge and practical dust control tools and techniques, you will be able to make a difference. Encouraged to attend are mine managers and operational staff, mine workers, safety and health professionals, mine engineers, manufacturers and consultants, and anyone else with an interest in the prevention of black lung disease and silicosis in coal mines.

Topics to be covered in the workshop, scheduled to start at 8:30 am and last until 4:15 pm, will focus on continuous miner and roof bolter dust control techniques and include:

- ***Understanding and Detecting Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and Silicosis***
- ***Face Ventilation Best Practices***
- ***Reducing Dust Generation and Optimum Suppression Techniques***
- ***Flooded Bed Dust Scrubbers***
- ***Roof Bolter Dust Control***
- ***Dust Control Parameters for Special Mining Situations***
- ***On-Shift Examination of Dust Control Parameters***

Speakers from J.H. Fletcher & Co., Joy Mining Machinery, MSHA and NIOSH will present information on the topics outlined. If you have any questions and/or are interested in attending and would like to register, please contact George Niewiadomski at (202) 693-9513 or by e-mail: niewiadomski.george@dol.gov