

# Bulldozer Operator



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

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## Health Hazard Information Card HH-44

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Breathing mine air that has harmful levels of respirable coal mine dust causes coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) and other lung diseases known as "black lung."

Bulldozers operate in locations that expose operators to haulage road dust and dust from equipment like highwall drills and front-end loaders. These activities, combined with the typical dozer work cycle, expose bulldozer operators to quartz-containing dust produced when removing overburden. Exposure to dust containing quartz particles is far more dangerous to the lungs than dust alone.

### ALWAYS:

- Ensure that all dust controls on the bulldozer, such as enclosed cabs, are in place, in good repair, and operating as required.
- Maintain window and door glass and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems as specified by the manufacturer. Replace any damaged, defective or missing components.
- Plug or seal with silicone caulk unused holes, access ports, seams and gaps to keep out dust. Use a flashlight to check for gaps. Release a smoke bomb inside the cab to reveal leaks.

(over)

# BLACK LUNG KILLS!

- Clean or replace air conditioning and recirculation/pressurization filters.
- Keep cab doors and windows closed.
- Keep environmental cabs clean inside. **Never** use compressed air or dry sweeping.
- Wet down haul roads to reduce dust generation.
- Review the operator dust sampling results posted on the mine bulletin board.
- Use a properly fitted NIOSH-approved respirator when needed. (Remember, MSHA does **not** accept respirators as a primary means of dust control.)

**—REMEMBER—  
Black lung is NOT curable,  
but it is preventable!**

If you have questions about coal mine health matters, please contact your local MSHA office or see the MSHA Web site at [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov).

