

Best Practices When Rockdusting

- Design a system that requires less manual tasks such as rock dust bag handling. Remember material handling still accounts for the second most number of accidents, ranking only behind reportable roof falls.
- High rate production systems result in more advancement each shift requiring rockdusting in face areas during the operating shift. 30 CFR 75.402 requires rockdust to within 40 feet of all working faces. A system should be designed that can allow the rapid application of rock dust during the mining and roof bolting cycle.
- Frequent dusting or simultaneous trickle dusting in returns and belt entries is recommended due to today's higher productivity rates.
- During the winter months, cold air entering the mine causes the mine surfaces to dry out, which increases the risk of fires and explosions. Apply liberal amounts of rock dust during these times.
- Task train all miners prior to rockdusting. Utilize the operating and maintenance manuals for any rockduster equipment used.
- Maintain equipment in original operating condition with functioning control valves, regulators, hose safety chains and pressure gages.
- Be sure to use MSHA approved discharge hoses and anti-static piping when applying rock dust.
- Position yourself in the airstream to allow dust to flow away from you to improve visibility. Never direct the hose towards others. Inspect areas for loose roof or ribs prior to rockdusting.
- Wear proper safety equipment such as gloves and safety glasses. Remember loose fitting clothes may get caught in moving equipment. Never operate equipment without the manufacturer's installed guards or covers.
- Empty and clean equipment following each use to prevent plugging, and component damage.
- Never place hands in hoppers or near moving parts. Always disconnect power and tag and lock out equipment prior to cleaning

