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Health Programs

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What do you see here...?
A Successful Program Starts With Leadership Support.

- Time
- Money
- Help from management
- Support must be continuous
Begin With A Walkthrough Survey

• Document everything, take pictures, use your senses
• How are materials being used and handled
  • Is dust settled around equipment?
• What physical hazards are present
  • How loud are people speaking in order to be heard?
• How many workers – where are people working
• What controls are already in place
  • How effective are they
• Is PPE required? Used?
• Utilize other sources of information
  • Miner complaints, previous sample results, MSDS’s or SDS’s
  • Exposure information from similar operations
What’s the ultimate goal?

• Miners are able to work day after day and go home without suffering any adverse health effects from the job.
MSHA Regulations

• MSHA issues citations for health violations under few standards.
• Overexposure – 56/57.5001(a)/.5005
  • A miner was sampled by MSHA (personal sample) and was over the TLV x error factor for a listed contaminant.

• A respiratory protection program (RPP) is now required and the miners working under the occupation/area that was found to be overexposed must be included in the program.

• If an acceptable RPP was already in place and a respirator was being worn, the citation will typically be non S&S.
Are you compliant with ANSI Z88.2-1969?

*Refer to the section of the referenced ANSI standard for further details.

**WAS THE MINER WHO WAS SAMPLED...?**
- Wearing a respirator appropriate to the hazard? (3.5.2*)
- Medically cleared to wear a respirator (3.7*)
- Fit tested (7.5*)
- Trained (7.4, 7.5*)

**DOES THE MINE OPERATOR HAVE A MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE RPP? (3.5*)**
- A written procedure for the selection and use of respirators appropriate to the hazards (3.5.2, Section 4*)
- Instruction and training on the proper use of respirators and their limitations (3.5.3, 7.4, 7.5*)
- Are respirators regularly cleaned and disinfected? (3.5.5, 8.3*)
- Are respirators stored in a convenient, clean and sanitary location? (3.5.6, 8.5*)
- Are respirators inspected and parts replaced as needed? (8.2*) **Note: special requirements for respirators for emergency use.**
- Is there surveillance of work area conditions? (3.5.8, 6.3.4, 10.4*)
- Are there regular inspections and evaluations to determine the continued effectiveness of the program? (3.5.9, Section 8, Section 10*)
- Is the program vested in one individual and identified within the RPP? (3.6*)

**MINIMUM TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING. (7.4*)**
- Instruction in the nature of the hazard, whether acute, chronic, or both, and an honest appraisal of what may happen if the respirator is not used.
- Explanation of why more positive control is not immediately feasible; include recognition that every reasonable effort is being made to reduce or eliminate the need for respirators.
- A discussion of why this is the proper type of respirator for the particular purpose
- A discussion of the respirator's capabilities and limitations
- Instruction and training in actual use of the respirator
- Classroom and field training to recognize and cope with emergency situations.
- Provide an opportunity to handle the respirator, have it fitted properly, test its facepiece-to-facepiece seal, wear it in normal air for a long familiarity period, and to wear it in a test atmosphere. (See also Section 7.5*)
The only way to determine if miners are overexposed is to sample.

Conduct adequate (dust, gas, mist and fume) surveys to be compliant with 56/57.5002 – exposure monitoring.

Focus on suspected/known areas

- Observations
- Concerns/or complaints
  - Remember, some are more susceptible than others
  - Even if exposure is less than the TLV, some miners may suffer adverse health effects
Compliance with Part 62 – Noise

- 62.120 – Hearing Conservation Program (HCP) – Action Level
- 62.130 – Permissible exposure level (PEL)
- 62.140 – Dual hearing protection level

- Take SLM readings throughout the plant.
- Spot check
  - Tasks
  - New equipment
  - Process changes
Hearing Loss

- Remember that occupational hearing loss from exposure to long-term noise often creates the greatest loss at 4000 Hz.

- With continued exposure, frequencies above and below 4000 Hz begin to experience loss.

- Since 4000 Hz is above normal speech frequencies, hearing impairment can occur without realizing it.

- Speech frequencies are 250-3000 Hz.
Summary

• Remember the goal is for everyone to go home without suffering adverse health effects from the job
• Recommend having an adequate RPP, HCP already in place
• Listen to concerns – investigate, evaluate
• Conduct surveys/exposure monitoring
  • Sample for known contaminants
  • Take SLM readings