

*when a
coal miner
dies . . .*

**THE NATIONAL COAL WORKERS' AUTOPSY STUDY
OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

when a coal miner dies . . .

- His family may arrange for an autopsy.
- It costs them nothing.
- The results may help his widow get "black lung" benefits.

THE NATIONAL COAL WORKERS' AUTOPSY STUDY . . .

The Study is a **service** program for survivors of coal miners authorized by the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.

It also contributes to "black lung" disease research. The data from the Study, which come to the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Respiratory Diseases (ALFORD), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, make a valuable addition to the overall knowledge of coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP), also called "black lung" disease.

WHAT IS AN AUTOPSY?

An autopsy is a detailed examination of the internal organs, including the heart and lungs. Thus, if coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) or "black lung" disease is present, it may be determined by an autopsy even if it was not proven during life.

An autopsy need not interfere with funeral arrangements.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- underground miners
- surface workers at underground mines
- both working and retired

It does not matter how long he worked in the mines. He need not have died in a hospital.

ARRANGING FOR AN AUTOPSY . . .

The family physician, the hospital, the funeral director, or local public health officials can help to arrange for an autopsy. It will be performed by a pathologist — a doctor specially trained to make such examinations.

ALFORD has told almost all pathologists about the National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study, and most of them are participating in this voluntary program.

GIVING CONSENT . . .

In order to have an autopsy performed, the miner's widow or next-of-kin gives permission by signing two short forms.

One is the pathologist's consent form; it gives him permission to make the examination.

The other is the consent and questionnaire form for the National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study. In order to complete this form, a member of the miner's family will be asked nine simple questions about the working and smoking history of the deceased.

THE COST . . .

There is no cost to the miner's widow or family.

The pathologist who performs the autopsy is paid in full, directly by ALFORD — the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Respiratory Diseases.

When necessary, the Social Security Administration has agreed to pay for exhumation and transportation related to an autopsy under the National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study. However, the Social Security Administration should be consulted about the need for such an autopsy before anything else is done.

THE RESULTS . . .

After the autopsy, the pathologist will send the results to the miner's doctor, who should explain the results to the family.

The pathologist will also send the results, along with the questionnaire and several small samples of lung tissue, to ALFORD in Morgantown, West Virginia. Upon receipt of the material, ALFORD will pay the pathologist for performing the autopsy.

If a claim for "black lung" benefits is filed, the Social Security Administration should be told about the autopsy.

The pathologist can send the autopsy results to Social Security. Or, Social Security may obtain them later from ALFORD. The results are sent to Social Security only if the widow or next-of-kin gives permission by signing a "release".

NIOSH . . .

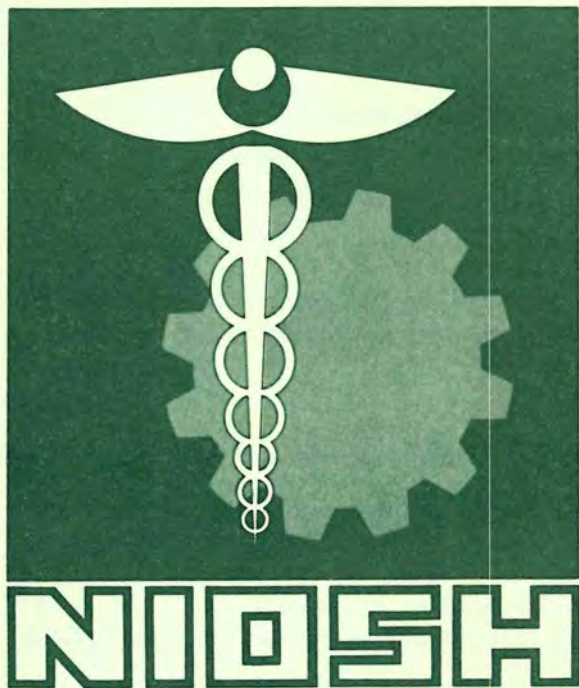
The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare conducts the health program of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. NIOSH's research program places special emphasis upon early diagnosis and prevention of coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) or "black lung" disease.

The Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Respiratory Diseases (ALFORD), which runs the National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study, is the heart of NIOSH's intensive coal mine health research program.

NIOSH also establishes federal coal mine health regulations, conducts the x-ray examination program required by the 1969 Act, and tests and approves respirators for use in coal mines.

Coal mine safety regulations are established by the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior, which enforces all federal coal mine health and safety regulations.

The Social Security Administration pays the "black lung" benefits which were established by the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.



MORE INFORMATION . . .

For more information about the National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study write

ALFORD

National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

Health Services and Mental Health Administration

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

1972

HSM 73-11002