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Coal Workers' X-Ray Surveillance Program

Frequently Asked Questions & Resource List

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

NIOSH

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What is Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis?

Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis is a lung disease caused by inhaling coal mine dust. Although some miners never develop the disease, others may develop the early signs after less than 10 years of mining experience. According to recent studies by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), about one of every 20 miners participating in our program has X-ray evidence of some pneumoconiosis.

In its early stages, called simple pneumoconiosis, the disease may not prevent you from working or carrying on most normal activities. In some miners, the disease never becomes more severe. In other miners, the disease progresses from simple to complicated pneumoconiosis, a condition also called progressive massive fibrosis.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for the damage that the dust has already done to your lungs. However, preventing Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis is among the highest priorities in protecting the health of the coal miner. It is an effort that requires the commitment of you, the miner, as well as the coal mine operator.

How can I know whether I have Black Lung?

Pneumoconiosis may be diagnosed from chest X-rays. The *Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969*, as amended by the *Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977*, has created two X-ray programs.

The first program is for new coal miners and requires that when you begin working in underground coal mining, you must be offered a chest X-ray, either as part of a pre-placement physical examination or within six months after being hired. Three years later you must be offered a second chest X-ray. If this second examination reveals evidence of pneumoconiosis, you must be offered a third chest X-ray two years after the second.

The second program is for all miners working in an underground coal mine. You must be offered a chest X-ray approximately every five years during a six-month time period arranged by the coal mine and approved by NIOSH.

What else might the X-ray examination tell me?

In addition to providing an indication of whether or not you have pneumoconiosis, the X-ray examination may also reveal evidence of other medical disorders. Heart problems and certain other diseases such as tuberculosis and lung cancer may be detected through a chest X-ray.

To whom does NIOSH send the medical report?

The law requires that NIOSH report the results of your examination to the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). MSHA will then notify you of any rights you may have, based on the X-ray examination results. No one else, including your physician, will be notified of the results without your written permission.

Coal mine operators **cannot** request or receive a report of your X-ray.

How can I learn more about my transfer options?

If your chest X-ray report indicates definite evidence of "BLACK LUNG," you will receive a letter from MSHA offering you a transfer option. The transfer option gives you the right to work at a job in the mine where the dust concentration is not more than 1.0 milligram per cubic meter of air. It is possible that the dust exposure on your current job already meets that level, and you would not be entitled to a transfer.

If you exercise this transfer option, the coal company that you work for will be notified by MSHA. Before you exercise your transfer option, we recommend that you contact the MSHA District Office nearest you to discuss specifics and details about transfer options (see enclosed resource list).

What if I have any symptoms or health concerns?

If you have shortness of breath, cough, or any other health concerns, we suggest you ask your doctor about them right away. Also, contact your doctor if the X-ray report mentions a health condition that requires medical follow-up, testing, or treatment.

If you don't have a regular doctor, you can find a doctor who knows about mining-related health problems at one of the U.S. Government-supported Black Lung Clinics. These clinics typically offer benefits counseling, treatment, and testing, including chest X-rays, laboratory services, pulmonary function testing, and education about respiratory diseases, for miners and their families. Active, inactive, and retired coal miners who suffer from chronic respiratory diseases are eligible for such services. Services vary from clinic to clinic, so check with your nearest Black Lung Clinic (see enclosed resource list) for specifics.

If you cannot determine which clinic is closest to you, you may contact MSHA or your union office for physician referral information. Alternatively, you may look in your telephone book for a physician that specializes in pulmonary disease or occupational medicine.

How can I learn about Federal disability benefits or compensation?

If you have been told by a physician that you have pneumoconiosis or other lung problems, you may have questions about whether you are eligible for any compensation from the Federal Government.

The Federal Black Lung Benefits Program is completely separate from the State Worker's Compensation programs. Some miners may qualify for one program and not the other. The Federal program provides payments and medical treatment to coal miners who are totally disabled from pneumoconiosis (Black Lung) arising from their employment in or around the nation's coal mines. In select cases, payments may be paid to eligible surviving dependents.

To find out about your eligibility for Federal Black Lung Benefits, contact the nearest Black Lung Benefits Office (see enclosed resource list).

How can I learn about State disability benefits or compensation?

If you have been told by a physician that you have pneumoconiosis or other lung problems, you may have questions about whether you are eligible for any compensation from the State Government. Worker's Compensation programs are different in every state, so you should contact your State Office of Worker's Compensation (see enclosed resource list).

Call now – if you don't apply in time, you could lose your benefits forever.

How can I get a copy of my X-ray or find out more about my X-ray report?

NIOSH arranges for experts to review your chest X-ray, and stores the film for future comparisons. If you need a copy or want more information about your chest X-ray, contact NIOSH (see enclosed resource list).

Coal Workers' X-Ray Surveillance Program

Resource List

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NIOSH

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.htm>

**National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health**

Coal Workers' X-Ray Surveillance Program

P.O. Box 4258

Morgantown, West Virginia 26504-4258

Toll Free: (888) 480-4042

Commercial: (304) 285-5724

Fax: (304) 285-6111

MSHA District Offices

<http://www.msha.gov/district/coalhome.htm>

DISTRICT 1 (ANTHRACITE COAL MINING IN PA)

Wilkes-Barre District Office
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
(570) 826-6321

DISTRICT 2 (BITUMINOUS COAL MINING IN PA)

New Stanton District Office
Hunker, Pennsylvania
(724) 925-5150

DISTRICT 3 (MD, OH, & NORTHERN WV)

Morgantown District Office
Morgantown, West Virginia
(304) 291-4277

DISTRICT 4 (SOUTHERN WV)

Mt. Hope District Office
Mt. Hope, West Virginia
(304) 877-3900

DISTRICT 5 (VA)

Norton District Office
Norton, Virginia
(540) 679-0230

DISTRICT 6 (EASTERN KY)

Pikeville District Office
Pikeville, Kentucky
(606) 432-0943

**DISTRICT 7 (CENTRAL KY, NC, SC,
TN, NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF
AL, & NORTHERN PORTION OF GA)**

Barbourville District Office
Barbourville, Kentucky
(606) 46-5123

**DISTRICT 8 (IL, IN, IA,
MI, MN, NORTHERN MO, & WI)**

Vincennes District Office
Vincennes, Indiana
(812) 882-7617

**DISTRICT 9 (ALL STATES WEST
OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER,
EXCEPT FOR MN, IA, & NORTHERN MO)**

Denver District Office
Denver, Colorado
(303) 231-5463

DISTRICT 10 (WESTERN KY)

Madisonville District Office
Madisonville, Kentucky
(270) 821-4180

**DISTRICT 11 (AL EXCEPT THE
NORTHEASTERN CORNER, CENTRAL
AND SOUTHERN GA, FL, MS, PR, & VI)**

Birmingham District Office
Birmingham, Alabama
(205) 290-7300

Black Lung Clinics

**<http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/blacklung/default.htm>
then select
“About Black Lung Clinics Program Grantees”**

REGION III (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)

Black Lung Clinics Program
West Virginia Department of Health
Charleston, West Virginia
(304) 558-4007

Centerville Clinics, Inc.
Fredericktown, Pennsylvania
(724) 632-6801

Chronic Respiratory Disease Program
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
(717) 772-5138

St. Charles Community Health Clinic
St. Charles Community Health Council, Inc
St. Charles, Virginia
(540) 383-4428

REGION IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC SC, TN)

Alabama Respiratory Disease Clinic
Birmingham, Alabama
(205) 324-1975

Mountain Comprehensive Health Corp.
Respiratory Clinics of Eastern Kentucky
Whitesburg, Kentucky
(606) 633-4823

Muhlenberg Community Hospital
Coal Miners Respiratory Clinic
Greenville, Kentucky
(270) 338-8300

Regional Education/Community
Health Services, Inc (REACHES)
Jacksboro, Tennessee
(423) 562-1156

REGION V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

Cook County Hospital Black Lung Clinics
Program, Division of Occupational Medicine
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 633-5310

Gary Wheaton Memorial
Tri State Respirator Clinic
Vincennes, Indiana
(812) 886-5838

Ohio Black Lung Clinics Program
The Ohio Department of Health
Columbus, Ohio
(614) 644-8063

Shawnee Health Services Foundation
County Court West
Cartersville, Illinois
(618) 985-8221

REGION VI (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)

Miners' Colfax Medical Center
Raton, New Mexico
(505) 445-3661

REGION VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

No. Wyoming Community Action Program
Worland, Wyoming
(307) 347-6185

Black Lung Benefits Offices

**[http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/contacts/
owcp/blcontac.htm](http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/contacts/owcp/blcontac.htm)**

REGION III (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)

Charleston Black Lung District Office
Charleston, West Virginia
(800) 347-3749

Greensburg Black Lung District Office
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
(800) 347-3753

Johnstown Black Lung District Office
Johnstown, Pennsylvania
(800) 347-3754

Parkersburg Black Lung District Office
Parkersburg, West Virginia
(800) 347-3751

Wilkes-Barre Black Lung District Office
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
(800) 347-3755

REGION IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Mount Sterling Black Lung District Office
Mount Sterling, Kentucky
(800) 366-4628

Pikesville Black Lung District Office
Pikeville, Kentucky
(800) 366-4599

REGION V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

Columbus Black Lung District Office
Columbus, Ohio
(800) 347-3771

REGION VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

Denver Black Lung District Office
Denver, Colorado
(800) 366-4612

State Offices of Workers' Compensation

<http://www.comp.state.nc.us/ncic/pages/all50.htm>

**NOTE: From the web site listed above, you
can get to any of the web sites
associated with the listed offices.**

Alabama Workers' Compensation Division
Montgomery, Alabama
(800) 528-5166
(334) 242-2868

Alaska Workers' Compensation Division
Juneau, Alaska
(907) 465-2790

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Juneau, Alaska
(907) 465-2790

Industrial Commission of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona
(602) 542-4411

Arizona State Compensation Fund

Phoenix, Arizona

(602) 631-2000

Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission

Little Rock, Arkansas

(800) 622-4472

(501) 682-3930

(800) 285-1131 (TDD)

California Commission on Health and Safety and
Workers' Compensation (CHSWC)

San Francisco, California

(415) 557-1304

California Division of Workers' Compensation
(DWC)

San Francisco, California

(800) 736-7401

(415) 703-4600

California Industrial Medical Council (IMC)

San Francisco, California

(800) 794-6900 (in California)

(650) 737-2000

California Workers' Compensation Appeals
Board (WCAB)
San Francisco, California
(415) 975-0700

California Self-Insurance Plans (SIP)
Sacramento, California
(916) 483-3392

California State Compensation Insurance Fund
(SCIF)
San Francisco, California
(415) 565-1234
(888) 222-3211 (Claims Reporting)

Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation
Denver, Colorado
(888) 390-7936
(800) 685-0891 (Spanish)
(303) 575-8700

Colorado Industrial Claims Appeals Office
Denver, Colorado
(303) 894-2378
(303) 620-4277 (Workers' Compensation)
(303) 620-4272 (Unemployment Insurance)

Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission
Hartford, Connecticut
(860) 493-1500,

Connecticut Compensation Review Board (CRB)
Hartford, Connecticut
(203) 493-1500

Delaware Division of Industrial
Wilmington, Delaware
(302) 761-8200 (New Castle)
(302) 422-1134 (Kent & Sussex)

Delaware Office of Workers' Compensation
Wilmington, Delaware
(302) 761-8200 (Wilmington)
(302) 422-1392 (Milford)

District of Columbia Office of Workers'
Compensation
Washington, District of Columbia
(202) 576-6265

Florida Division of Workers' Compensation
Tallahassee, Florida
(850) 488-2514

Florida Workers' Compensation Oversight Board
Tallahassee, Florida
(850) 487-2613

Florida Judges of Compensation Claims
Tallahassee, Florida
(850) 488-2043

Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation
Atlanta, Georgia
(800) 533-0682
(404) 656-3875

Guam Workers' Compensation Commission
Tamuning, Guam
(671) 647-4205

Hawaii Disability Compensation Division
Honolulu, Hawaii
(808) 586-9174

Hawaii Labor & Industrial Relations
Appeals Board
Honolulu, Hawaii
(808) 586-8600

Idaho Industrial Commission
Boise, Idaho
(800) 950-2110
(208) 334-6000
(800) 950-2110 (TDD)

Idaho State Insurance Fund
Boise, Idaho
(800) 334-2370
(208) 334-2370 (in the Boise area)

Illinois Industrial Commission
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 814-6611

Illinois Office of Self-Insurance Administration
Springfield, Illinois
(217) 785-7084

Workers' Compensation Board of Indiana
Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 232-3808

Iowa Workforce Development
Des Moines, Iowa
(800) 562-4692 (JOB-IOWA)
(515) 281-5387

Iowa Division of Workers' Compensation
Des Moines, Iowa
(800) 562-4692 (JOB-IOWA)
(515) 281-5387

Kansas Workers' Compensation
Topeka, Kansas
(800) 332-0353
(785) 296-3441

Kentucky Labor Cabinet
Frankfort, Kentucky
(502) 564-3070

Kentucky Department of Workers' Claims
Frankfort, Kentucky
(502) 564-5550

Kentucky Workers' Compensation Board
Workers' Compensation Funding Commission
Frankfort, Kentucky
(502) 573-3505

Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation
Administration
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
(800) 824-4592
(504) 342-7555

Maine Workers' Compensation Board
Augusta, Maine
(207) 287-7096

Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission
Baltimore, Maryland
(800) 492-0479
(410) 864-5100

Maryland Insured Workers' Insurance Fund
Towson, Maryland
(800) 492-0197
(410) 494-2200

Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents
Boston, Massachusetts
(800) 323-3249
(617) 727-4900;
(800) 224-6196 (TTY)

Massachusetts Workers' Compensation
Advisory Council
Boston, Massachusetts
(617) 727-4900 x378

Michigan Department of Consumer &
Industry Services
Lansing, Michigan
(517) 373-1820

Michigan Bureau of Workers' Disability
Compensation
Lansing, Michigan
(517) 322-1296
(517) 322-5987 (TDD in Lansing)

Michigan Board of Magistrates

Lansing, Michigan

(517) 241-9380

(517) 322-5987 (TDD in Lansing)

Michigan Workers' Compensation Appellate
Commission

Lansing, Michigan

(517) 335-5828

Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry
St. Paul, Minnesota

(800) 342-5354 (DIAL-DLI,)

(612) 296-6107

(612) 297-4198 (TTY)

Minnesota Workers' Compensation Division
St. Paul, Minnesota

(800) 342-5354,

(612) 296-6107

Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court
of Appeals
St. Paul, Minnesota
(651) 296-6526
(800) 627-3529 (TTY/TDD)

Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission
Jackson, Mississippi
(601) 987-4200

Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial
Relations
Jefferson City, Missouri
(573) 751-9691

Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation
Jefferson City
(573) 751-4231

Missouri Labor and Industrial Relations
Commission
Jefferson City, Missouri
(573) 751-2461

Montana State Compensation Insurance Fund
Helena, Montana
(406) 444-6500
(800) 332-6102 (Customer Service)
(800) 243-9121 (Claim Reporting)

Montana Workers' Compensation Court
Helena, Montana
(406) 444-7794

Montana Employment Relations Division
Department of Labor & Industry
Helena, Montana
(406) 444-6530

Montana Self Insurers' Guaranty Fund
Missoula, Montana
(406) 549-8849

Navajo Nation Workers' Compensation Program
Window Rock, Arizona
(602) 871-6461

Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court
Lincoln, Nebraska
(800) 599-5155 (in Nebraska only)
(402) 471-6468

Nevada Department of Business & Industry
(Northern NV)
Carson City, Nevada
(775) 687-4250

Nevada Department of Business & Industry
(Southern NV)
Las Vegas, Nevada
(702) 486-2750

Nevada Division of Industrial Relations
Carson City, Nevada
(775) 687-3032

Nevada Industrial Insurance Regulation Section
Carson City, Nevada
(775) 687-3033

Nevada Industrial Insurance Regulation Section
Henderson, Nevada
(702) 486-9080

Nevada Attorney for Injured Workers
Carson City, Nevada
(775) 687-4076

Employers Insurance Company of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada
(775) 886-1000
(888) 900-1455 (Claim Reporting)

New Hampshire Department of Labor
Concord, New Hampshire
(603) 271-3177

New Hampshire Workers' Compensation Division
Concord, New Hampshire
(603) 271-3174 (claims)
(603) 271-2042 (coverage)
(603) 271-6172 (self-insurance)
(603) 271-3328 (vocational rehabilitation)

New Jersey Department of Labor
Trenton, New Jersey
(609) 292-2323

New Jersey Division of Workers' Compensation
Trenton, New Jersey
(609) 292-2414

**New Jersey Compensation Rating and
Inspection Bureau**
Newark, New Jersey
(973) 622-6014

**New Mexico Workers' Compensation
Administration**
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(800) 255-7965
(505) 841-6000

New York State Workers' Compensation Board
Albany, New York
(518) 474-6670

New York State Insurance Fund
New York, New York
(212) 312-9000

North Carolina Department of Commerce
Raleigh, North Carolina
(919) 733-4151

North Carolina Industrial Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina
(919) 807-2500

North Dakota Workers' Compensation
Bismark, North Dakota
(800) 777-5033
(701) 328-3800

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Columbus, Ohio
(800) 644-6292 (OHIOBWC)
(614) 466-1320

Industrial Commission of **Ohio**
Columbus, Ohio
(800) 521-2691
(614) 466-6136

Oklahoma Department of Labor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(888) 269-5353
(405) 528-1500

Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(405) 522-8600

Oklahoma State Insurance Fund
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(405) 858-3245

Oregon Department of Consumer & Business
Services
Salem, Oregon
(503) 378-4100

Oregon Workers' Compensation Division
Salem, Oregon
(800) 452-0288
(503) 947-7810
(503) 947-7993 (TTY)

Oregon Workers' Compensation Board
Salem, Oregon
(503) 378-3308

**Oregon Workers' Compensation Management-
Labor Advisory Committee**
Department of Consumer & Business Services
Salem, Oregon
(503) 947-7867

Oregon Ombudsman for Injured Workers
Salem, Oregon
(800) 927-1271
(503) 378-3351

Oregon Ombudsman for Small Business
Salem, Oregon
(503) 378-4209
(503) 378-4100 (V/TTY)

Oregon SAIF Corporation
Salem, Oregon
(800) 285-8525
(503) 373-8000

Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
(800) 482-2383 (claims help line)
(717) 772-3702 (employer help line)
(800) 362-4228 (TDD)

Pennsylvania State Workmen's Insurance Fund
Scranton, Pennsylvania
(717) 963-4630

Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation
Appeal Board
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
(717) 783-7838

Puerto Rico Industrial Commissioner's Office
San Juan, Puerto Rico
(787) 783-3808

Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court
Providence, Rhode Island
(401) 277-3097

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Cranston, Rhode Island
(401) 462-8000

Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Division
Cranston, Rhode Island
(401) 462-8100
(401) 462-8084 (TDD)

South Carolina Workers' Compensation
Commission
Columbia, South Carolina
(803) 737-5700

South Carolina State Accident Fund
Columbia, South Carolina
(800) 521-6576
(803) 896-5800

South Carolina Second Injury Fund
Columbia, South Carolina
(803) 798-2722

**South Carolina Workers' Compensation
Uninsured Employers' Fund
Columbia, South Carolina
(803) 798-2722**

**South Dakota Division of Labor and Management
Pierre, South Dakota
(605) 773-3681**

**Tennessee Workers' Compensation Division
Nashville, Tennessee
(800) 332-2667 (within Tennessee)
(615) 532-4812**

**Texas Workers' Compensation Commission
Austin, Texas
(512) 440-5690**

**Texas Research and Oversight Council on
Workers' Compensation
Austin, Texas
(512) 469-7811
(800) 736-2989 (TTD)**

U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, District of Columbia
(202) 693-6000

Utah Industrial Accidents Division
Salt Lake City, Utah
(801) 530-6800

Vermont Department of Labor & Industry
Montpelier, Vermont
(802) 828-2288

Vermont Workers' Compensation Division
Montpelier, Vermont
(802) 828-2286

Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission
Richmond, Virginia
(804) 367-8600
(804) 367-8600 (TDD)

Virgin Islands Department of Labor
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
(340) 776-3700
(340) 773-1994

Virgin Islands Workers' Compensation Division
St. Croix, Virgin Islands
(809) 692-9390

Washington Department of Labor and Industries
Olympia, Washington
(360) 902-4213

Washington Board of Industrial Insurance
Appeals
Olympia, Washington
(800) 442-0447
(360) 753-9646

West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs
Charleston, West Virginia
(304) 558-2630

West Virginia Workers' Compensation Division
Charleston, West Virginia
(800) 628-4265
(304) 926-5048

West Virginia Office of Judges
Charleston West Virginia
(304) 558-1686

West Virginia Workers' Compensation
Appeal Board
Charleston, West Virginia
(304) 558-3375

Wisconsin Workers' Compensation Division
Madison, Wisconsin
(608) 266-1340

Wisconsin Workers' Compensation
Advisory Council
Madison, Wisconsin
(608) 266-6841

Wisconsin Labor and Industry Review
Commission
Madison, Wisconsin
(608) 266-9850

Wyoming Department of Employment
Cheyenne, Wyoming
(307) 777-7672

Wyoming Workers' Safety and Compensation
Division
Cheyenne, Wyoming
(307) 777-7159

Wyoming Employment Tax Division
Casper, Wyoming
(307) 235-3201 (Casper)
(307) 777-7471 (Cheyenne)



Delivering on the Nation's Promise:

Safety and health at work

For all people

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To receive other information about occupational
safety and health problems, call

1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674),

or visit the NIOSH Home Page
on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>