



Technology News

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Milestones in Mining Safety and Health Technology

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NIOSH Develops Improved Mining Safety and Health Web Topic Page www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining

Introduction

The NIOSH Office of Mining and Construction Safety and Health Research has redesigned its Mining Safety and Health Web topic page. The updated page incorporates a significant amount of new safety and health information, plus an improved layout to better serve stakeholder needs. It also provides background information about the NIOSH Mining Research Program, including research awards, core competencies, unique labs, community and educational outreach, and a brief discussion of how the research program is structured. The new Web topic page can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining.

"Search" Feature

The redesigned Web topic page features improved search capabilities. The "Search Mining" feature on each page lets you search only the NIOSH Mining Safety and Health Web topic page. The user can still search the entire NIOSH Web page by using the "Search NIOSH" option.

New Safety and Health Topics

Developers expanded the "Safety and Health Topics" and reorganized the site to make it easier to find information. Each topic link now has a significant amount of new and updated information, as well as links to related topics of interest. Safety and health topics include dusts, diesel exhaust, hearing loss, contact with electric current, fires, explosives, ventilation, emergency management, new and older workers, and education and training. All topics can be accessed from the home page (Figure 1).

Publications

Although the Web topic page highlights many of the most requested publications on the safety and health topic links, you can find a complete list of downloadable publications as well.

More than 600 mine safety and health publications are now downloadable from the page. Short summaries let the user quickly identify publications of interest.

Products

The updated Web topic page offers more than 120 NIOSH mine safety and health products, including training exercises, toolbox talks, videos, computer software, guides, and checklists, many of which are downloadable. If not, instructions are given on how to obtain copies. Some of our products include:

- Software to analyze horizontal stress, design pillars for longwall mines, and select roof bolts for ground control.
- Educational software including the Hearing Loss Simulator, which simulates the effects of noise and aging; and Coal Country, which teaches children about coal formation, mining techniques, and everyday uses of coal.
- Utility software including the HazCom Helper software to assist individuals in writing a HazCOM plan, as required by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), to track hazardous chemicals at their mine sites.
- Guides for troubleshooting roof support systems, underground workstation design, and seating design.
- Training exercises and videos that can be used for safety training.

Data and Statistics

General mining statistics are used by a wide variety of stakeholders. The NIOSH Mining Web topic page offers statistical graphs, tables, maps, fact sheets, and other publications that document the mining population, injuries, fatalities, diseases, and occupational exposures for all mining commodities. If users prefer to analyze data themselves, downloadable files of MSHA data are available. These cover employment, production, injuries, fatalities, and accident data from 1983 to the present and are available in both SPSS® and dBASE® formats.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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Search Mining



Safety and Health Topics

<p>Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact with electric current Diesel exhaust Dusts Explosives Emotional stress <p>Diseases, Injuries, and Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing loss Musculoskeletal diseases and disorders <p>Accidents and Emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosions Fires Rock falls 	<p>Special Populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New workers Older workers <p>Engineering Controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment design Ground control Ventilation <p>Administrative Controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency management Hazardous materials management <p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and training
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[All Safety and Health Topics](#)

September Mining Spotlights

- ▶ [Welcome to our new web site](#)
We've added a significant amount of new content and reorganized our site to make it easier to find information.
- ▶ [Hearing Loss Simulator](#)
Software to demonstrate the effects of noise exposure on hearing without experiencing an actual hearing loss.
- ▶ [Make it Safer With Roof Screen](#)
NIOSH has found that most rock fall injuries can be prevented by installing roof screens during the bolting cycle.

2003 Injury Statistic

A total of 18.3% of mine operator employees worked underground, while 81.7% worked at surface mines.

Figure 1.—Home page of the NIOSH Mining Safety and Health Web topic page.

Calendar

The event calendar tracks upcoming mine safety and health events. We welcome requests to include your event on our calendar.

For More Information

NIOSH appreciates your feedback on how to improve our Mining Safety and Health Web topic page to better serve our customers. If you have any suggestions or would like additional information, contact Michael J. Brnich, Jr., CMSP, NIOSH Pittsburgh Research Laboratory, Cochrans Mill Rd., P.O. Box 18070, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0070; phone: 412-386-6840; fax: 412-386-6780; e-mail: MBrnich@cdc.gov.

To receive other information about occupational safety and health topics, call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674), or visit the NIOSH Website at www.cdc.gov/niosh

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