

BLACK LUNG

**DON'T
BECOME
A VICTIM**



BLACK LUNG

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP), commonly called "Black Lung," can often be detected using chest x-rays. X-rays may show definite evidence of disease before the miner notices symptoms. Early detection is important, since prompt and adequate control of dust exposure can prevent or slow the progression of a disabling disease.



"The first priority and concern of all in the coal or other mining industry must be the health and safety of its most precious resource – the miner."
Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 – amended 1977

What can YOU do?

Participate in the CWHSP!

Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program

The X-ray Program

Why should I participate?

- X-ray **FREE** of charge to the miner
- Miner receives confidential report of the x-ray result
- If definite evidence of CWP is found, the miner has the right to work where the dust concentration is not more than 1.0mg/m³ of air, with no loss of regular pay
- X-ray may help support a State or Federal claim for Black Lung Benefits
- Supports research for preventing disease and disability

What is involved?

- Completing one form
- Having one x-ray taken at a local facility

Who is eligible?

- Every underground coal miner

Other CWHSP Components

National Coal Workers' Autopsy Study

- No cost to the family
- Family receives a report of the autopsy findings
- Findings may support a survivor's claim for Black Lung Benefits
- Supports research for prevention of lung disease among coal miners

B Reader Certification Program

- B Readers are doctors who are certified by NIOSH to classify chest x-rays for evidence of lung damage caused by dusts

The Law

The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 (as amended by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977) was created:

- To study the causes and consequences of coal-related respiratory disease
- To provide early detection and prevention of coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP)
- To protect the health and safety of underground coal miners
- To require all coal mine operators and contractors to display their NIOSH-approved plan in a visible location on the bulletin board at the mine

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