



Standing Dust Committee Bulletin

Mid-Year Results 2015

Respirable Dust

- 1498 tests – 14 exceeded occupational exposure limit (2.5 mg/m³)
- 71% of exceedances on longwall
- 100 % longwall exceedances using Bi Directional extraction
- 71% of all exceedances in Singleton district

Inhalable Dust

- 889 tests – 139 exceeded occupational exposure limit (10 mg/m³)
- 66% of exceedances on longwall
- 90% of longwall exceedances using Bi Directional extraction
- 14% of longwall exceedances were recorded by Statutory Official. Two of the 13 Deputy's that exceeded were not wearing respiratory protection
- 21% of exceedances from continuous miner panels were not wearing respiratory protection

Respirable Crystalline Silica*

- 373 tests – 70 exceeded occupational exposure limit (0.1 mg/m³)
- 74% of exceedances on longwall
- 98% of longwall exceedances using Bi Directional extraction
- 15% of longwall exceedances were recorded by Statutory Official
- 23% exceedances in continuous miner panels
- 44% of exceedances in continuous miner panels were not wearing respiratory protection

*International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Group 1 Carcinogen for lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Comments

1. Bi-directional operation in longwall's increases risk of exposure to all dust classifications
2. Respiratory protection is worn less often in continuous miner panels and other tasks
3. Statutory officials are exceeding the occupational exposure limit, some without any respiratory protection
4. Singleton district underground operations have elevated risk exposure factors (cutting stone, coal type, seam thickness, etc...)

The Standing Dust Committee recommends that officials and workers review this data and consider if improvements are required in their airborne dust management system.

Mines in the Singleton District or mines using bi-directional operation should consider additional dust control measures. Effective utilisation of automation capabilities is key to removing operators from areas of high exposure, particularly on Bi Directional longwall faces.

Statutory officials in particular should ensure that they provide the appropriate leadership example required.

For further information contact the Standing Dust Committee at sdcc@coalservices.com.au