

# How To Breathe Safely Underground

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## TOPIC: How To Breathe Safely Underground

The air in an underground mine can become contaminated, and if not properly controlled, every worker is subjected to potentially serious health hazards.

## Means of Contamination

- Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are brought in from blasting and internal combustion engines.
- Potentially harmful dust is a normal aspect of the mining process.
- Diesel particulate matter (DPM) is present where diesel engines are operating.

## Preventative Measures

- Supply fresh air and remove pollutants with proper ventilation.
- Maintain proper ventilation controls.
- Regularly monitor the mine atmosphere for concentrations of contaminants.
- Limit idling of diesel equipment.
- Use water to control dust when possible.

## Contamination Prevention

- Develop a communication program for reporting ventilation problems and changes.
- Maintain equipment to promote optimum air quality.
- Set up traffic patterns for diesel equipment to encourage improved air quality.

Discussion Date:

### Employee Participants:

[illegible]

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