

Underground Mine Safety Alerts Infographic



HAZARD ALERT

Health effects of diesel exhaust

Risk of cancer and respiratory diseases

In 2012, the World Health Organization classified diesel exhaust emission as a substance that is known to cause cancer in humans.

Mining sector workers beware of higher risk if you work as an underground production and development miner, heavy equipment operator, or heavy-duty equipment mechanic.

SIGNS OF EXPOSURE

- Gravimetric air sampling indicates diesel particulates
- Gas monitors indicate elevated levels of carbon monoxide (CO) or nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- Irritated eyes or difficulty breathing
- White, blue, or black smoke
- Visible haze
- Noticeable odour of diesel exhausts

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

- Eye irritation
- Nose irritation
- Throat irritation
- Breathing irritation including coughing, phlegm production, wheezing, chest tightness
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Allergic reactions

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- Lung cancer
- Respiratory diseases
- Decrease in lung function
- Increased risk of developing asthma
- Increased severity of existing respiratory conditions and allergies
- Cardiovascular disease

You do not need to experience any signs of exposure or short-term health effects to develop long-term health effects like cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and lung cancer.

Source: <https://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca>