

## NSW mining and extractives industry

### Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the health hazard identification tool sheet is to prompt the mine personnel to think broadly about the sources of health hazards.

The objectives are to:

- identify work areas, processes and tasks that are potential sources of health hazards
- undertake environmental monitoring to confirm the concentration or intensity of the hazard e.g. atmospheric monitoring for dust/diesel or acoustic for noise
- identify workers/occupational groups most exposed.

### Process

#### Step 1 – Finding hazards

- Review your hazard incident/workers compensation claims reports for respiratory, hearing, chemical exposure and musculoskeletal disorders e.g. back/shoulder pain.
- Review any atmospheric or personal exposure monitoring results (dusts and noise) if these are available. Review manual handling risk assessment reports and other hazard reports.
- Identify whether any of the chemicals used on site are referred to in Schedule 14 of the WHS Regulation 2011.
- Gather information on hazardous chemicals, noise emissions & vibration (refer to material safety data sheets and plant specification manuals).

#### Step 2 – Identify similar exposure groups

- List the different work areas (see Identify worksheet), identify tasks or activities that are carried out in each area and consider potential health hazards (worksheet prompts for potential hazards)
- Using this as a guide to identify groups of workers that have similar health hazard exposures – how long are workers exposed?

#### Step 3 – Link work areas/exposure groups with hazards

- Gather a representative group from your workplace to conduct a 'health' hazard identification walk. Modify the worksheet for your site.
- Carry out an inspection/walk around and record hazards and length of time workers are exposed - retain for your records.
- Talk to workers about health concerns associated with work areas, tasks or processes.
- Identify areas or tasks where further atmospheric/acoustic monitoring may be required and establish a baseline exposure.
- Once you have identified your hazards & gathered information go to tool 'Assessing risks associated with health hazards worksheet'.

Identify

