



National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Pittsburgh Research Laboratory

The Pittsburgh Research Laboratory is one of the world's foremost mining research establishments. Its mission is to improve the safety and health of the Nation's miners.

THE PITTSBURGH RESEARCH LABORATORY (PRL) occupies 180 acres at Bruceton, PA, about 13 miles south of Pittsburgh. The Laboratory was once a part of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, which was closed by the U.S. Congress in 1996. Health and safety research at the Laboratory was subsequently transferred to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PRL's mining health and safety program is aimed at the following high-priority research areas: dust control and measurement, including silica, diesel, and toxic substances; hearing loss prevention; human factors; haulage; equipment design; surface and noncoal mining; new and emerging practices and technologies; fires and explosions; life support; and ground control.

Special PRL facilities include the Experimental Mine for research on preventing fires and explosions; the Safety Research Coal Mine for testing new equipment and technology before transferring them to industry; the Safety Structures Testing Laboratory for conducting load tests for various mine roof supports; and Lake Lynn Laboratory near Fairchance, PA, where large-scale explosion tests and mine fire research are conducted.

PRL is a diverse organization comprising about 200 employees trained in a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, epidemiology, industrial hygiene, chemistry, physics, geology, psychology, and sociology.

To receive additional information about mining issues or other occupational safety and health problems, call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674), or visit the NIOSH Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html> ■

