

Mine Mill Health & Safety Committees



Local 598/CAW Newsletter

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Nickel Rim Health and Safety Report

By: Eugene Czaja, JHSC Member

We are now in the midst of the hot season. The combination of the sometimes unbearable heat underground and the extended shifts are taking its toll on many of us. I get this question quite often, "What can you do about the heat underground?"

The reality is that aside from installing refrigeration/cooling systems, there is nothing we can do to diminish the heat during the summer months. The hot summer air is pumped underground where it is further heated by the passage through fans and friction with the drift walls.

This, in combination with metabolic heat generated from inside the body, as well as heat produced from operating equipment, increases the temperature even further. There is also a worldwide average temperature increase with depth of one degree Celsius for every 120 meters in depth.

So what can we do as workers? We can do plenty. We can make sure our air conditioning units on our equipment is working, if so equipped. If it is not working, don't use it. Make sure our ventilation is in good shape. If it is not up to standard, Stop and Correct.

Most importantly, take breaks as required to cool down. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, and go to a cool spot such as a refuge station if you feel you are getting overheated. Our body will let us know when it

is becoming too hot. If we feel our ventilation is substandard, request a test. We have the right to know what conditions we are working in.

Recently we have had many incidents and close calls with mobile equipment. If a piece of mobile equipment is defective, tag it out and have it repaired. Using a piece of defective equipment just to complete the round not only endangers your own safety, but also the safety of co workers.

On a positive note, housekeeping is generally improving throughout the mine. There has also been a huge improvement in the installation of water sprays on roadways and re-mucks. Keep up the good work.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Denis (Felix) Chartrand all the best in his new and very demanding role as Compensation Health and Welfare Officer. It's been a pleasure working with him on the JHSC over the years. I would also like to welcome Dan Racine back to the committee. His wealth of experience will be a great asset to the committee, but more importantly to the workers.

In closing, have a great summer and stay safe.

