

Ontario mine workers have some of the highest exposure rates to diesel particulates^[1].



Background

USW History in Advocacy



In 1974, a group of steelworker activist for Elliot Lake attend a health and safety conference in France, in secret.

Union officials were seeing hundreds of their co-workers become ill and dying of silicosis and lung cancer

USW History in Advocacy

- The activist in Paris were shocked to learn that government officials knew the causation as something new, radiation exposure.
- April 18 1974, 1000 miners in Elliot lake walk off the job in a wildcat strike action.
- A royal commission was put together and the Occupational Health and Safety Act was born.

USW History in Advocacy

- The Steelworkers have always been on the leading front of Health and Safety Legislation.
- The USW and Local 6500 has been involved in campaigns like “Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law” after the Westray disaster
- The local holds multiple chairs on the Mining Legislative Review Committee for the labour contingent
- Participated in multiple inquests, inquires, and intake clinics including the incredible work done by the McIntyre Powder Project.

USW Local 6500 represents 2,566 active maintenance and hourly employees along with 6,555 pensioners.





USW first approached the MLITSD about lowering the OEL for diesel particulate in June 2020.

After stalled contact with MLITSD, USW has now continued with this initiative.



USW Diesel Particulate Project



Ontario mining operations employ the most miners of any province^[2] ...



Ontario mining operations employ the most miners of any province^[2] ...



over 19,000 workers

Ontario uses the *highest* Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) for diesel particulate in Canada.



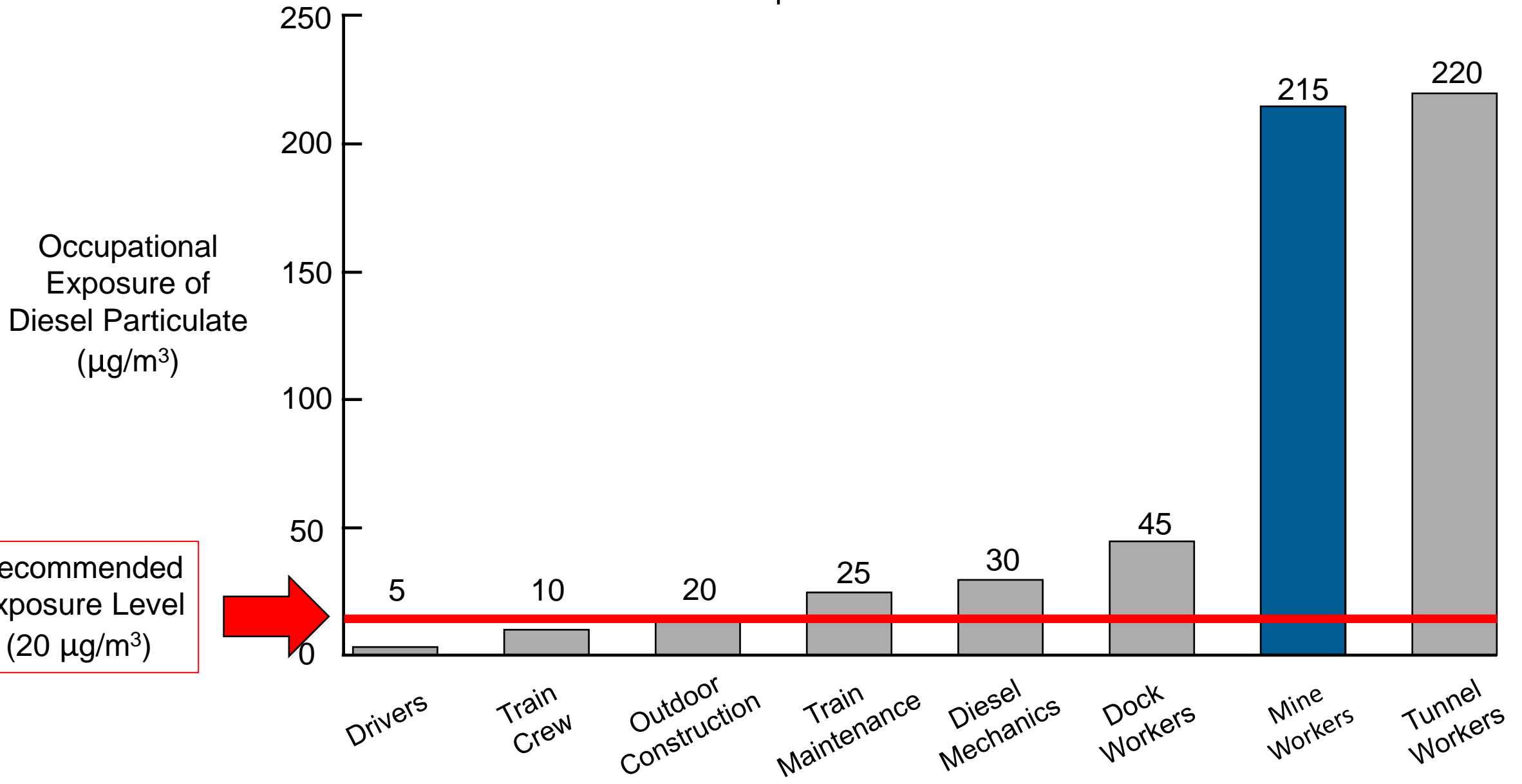
Diesel exhaust is made up of gas and **particles**.

Mine workers in Ontario are being exposed to **harmful levels of diesel particulates**.

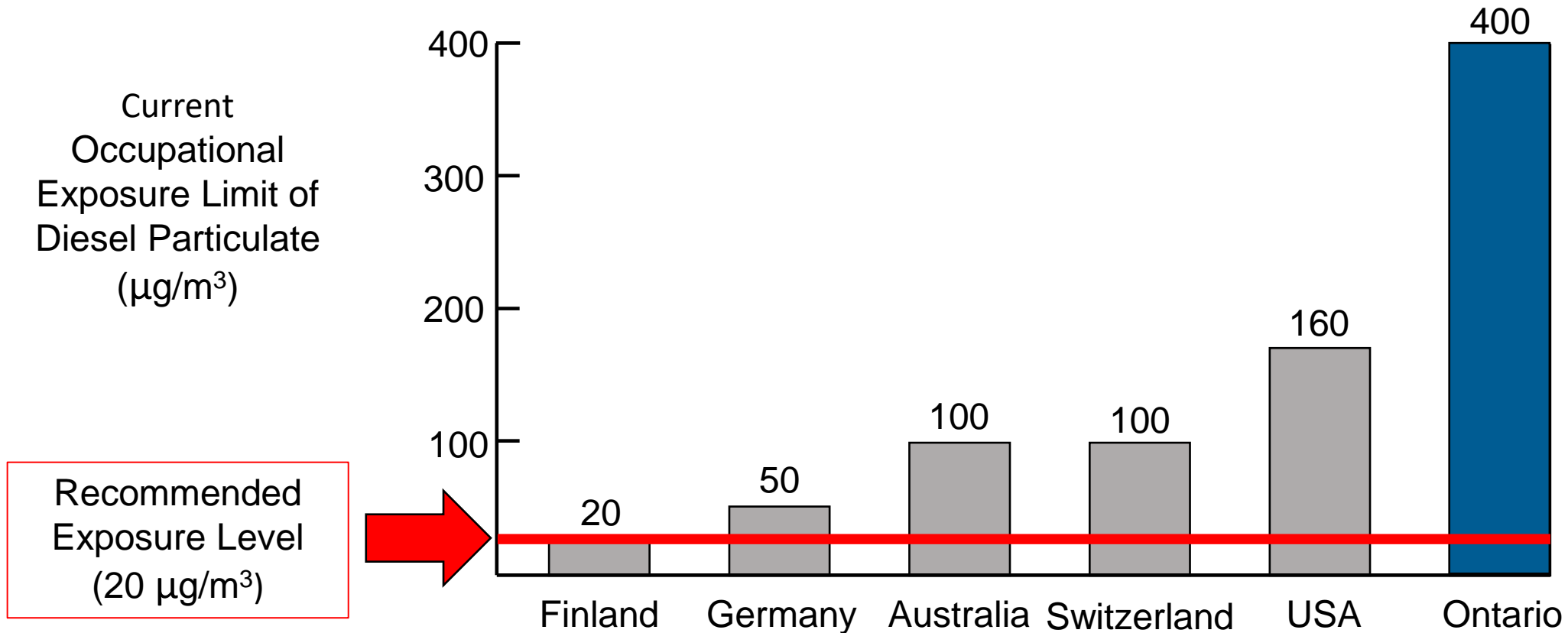
The current Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) for Ontario mines is **400 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** .

Mine workers have some of the highest rates of diesel particulate exposure among Ontario workers.

Mine workers have some of the highest exposure rates to diesel particulate in Ontario^[3].



Other countries are enforcing tougher regulations on diesel particulate exposure to protect workers^[4].



USW is proposing **20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

The MLITSD needs to lower Ontario's Occupational Exposure Limit for diesel particulate.

Based on:



Years of diesel particulate exposure can cause:



Cancer

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) /
Emphysema

Onset of asthma or worsening of asthma

Worsening of diabetic comorbidities

Mine workers are at increased risk for respiratory disease and cancer.



Lung Cancer

1.4x

Mine workers are at increased risk for respiratory disease and cancer.



COPD
1.2x

Mine workers are at increased risk for respiratory disease and cancer.



Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

1.2x



Local 6500



Lung Cancer

Claims Submitted
57

Claims Successful
4

over the last 10 years



Local 6500



Bladder Cancer

Claims Submitted

11

Claims Successful

1

over the last 10 years

Safe Work Associations (SWAs)



1. Champion the cause, spread the word, and bring awareness to diesel particulate exposure.
1. Share the project information on social media platforms.
1. Encourage miners to report diesel particulate exposure or request monitoring.

Occupational Hygienists



1. Encourage and support miners to fill out exposure forms.
1. Encourage diesel particulate monitoring requests.
1. Share project information on social media platforms.
1. Communicate the risks of diesel particulate exposure to workers.

1. Champion the cause by using your political platforms to bring awareness of the project and the health risks of DP exposure.
1. Bring awareness by speaking to media outlets about the project.
1. Share the project information on social media platforms.
1. Support the project by writing the Ministry about the importance of legislative change to diesel particulate exposure levels.



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