Like equipment safety technology, there is also technology at cement plants that helps lower the respirable dust concentration in the work environment.

For example, dust collectors are used in baghouses and can be cleaned for reuse. Exhaust ventilation can remove larger dust particles from work areas but does not efficiently remove smaller dust particles which can be inhaled.

The most effective and efficient way to protect an individual miner’s respiratory system is to wear a NIOSH-accepted respirator that is approved for specific uses. Some common respirators used at cement plants include filter-type such as the N95, half-face and full-face with HEPA filters, and powered air purifying respirators.

**To Protect Your Respiratory Health:**

- **Wear respiratory protection in employer designated areas**
- **Ensure a tight fit with your respirator by having a respirator fit test provided by your employer**
- **Follow all respirator manufacturer guidelines and directives, especially for cleaning, discarding and change-out.**