



COAL'S DEADLY DUST

Targeting Yemen

1 x 60 HD



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In *Coal's Deadly Dust*, FRONTLINE and NPR investigate the rise of an aggressive form of black lung disease plaguing thousands of coal miners across Appalachia—and how federal regulators and the industry failed to protect miners.

Correspondent Howard Berkes has spent the last six years in and out of the coal fields in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, meeting sick and dying coal miners—and many of them weren't just getting sick younger, they were getting sicker more quickly.

From 2011 to 2016, the federal researchers at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health tasked with tracking black lung disease counted only 99 cases of this fatal disease nationwide; however, FRONTLINE and NPR identified more than 2,000 in Appalachia alone in the same time frame. And, in most cases, silica dust, not coal dust, likely played the key role.

Although silica dust is known to be nearly 20 times more toxic than carbon-based coal dust, the film reveals that federal regulators and the mining industry never treated the lethal dust as a unique threat.

NIOSH recommended for decades direct regulation of silica dust, and an exposure limit twice as tough. And while the mining industry and federal regulators both argue that progress has been made in protecting miners from harmful coal mine dust, there still is no definitive plan for separate and tougher regulation of silica at coal mines—and there are still more than 50,000 coal miners working nationwide. **1x32** HD

Also in this hour, FRONTLINE presents *Targeting Yemen*. Correspondent Safa Al Ahmad reports from inside Yemen, investigating the escalation of the U.S. fight against Al Qaeda and its impact on civilians. She travels to the front lines, visiting the sites of Special Forces raids and a deadly drone strike to shed light on how the U.S. counterterrorism strategy is playing out on the ground. **1x22** HD

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CREDITS

Coal's Deadly Dust

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Targeting Yemen

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Image: Elaine Sheldon/FRONTLINE



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