

# IARC CLASSIFICATION OF ROAD PAVING

“2B” – Possible Carcinogen



**A Presentation For**

Asphalt Paving Workers  
October 20, 2011

# THE ASPHALT INDUSTRY CARES



- The health and safety of our workers is our top priority.
- Our 20+ year track records demonstrates commitment to ongoing improvement in workplace conditions
- We have active partnerships with government, academia, and unions
- Between 1970 and 2010, exposures at the paving site have been reduced by 93 to 98 percent.

# WHAT IS IARC?

- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- Brings together international panels of scientists in Lyon, France
- IARC has reviewed more than 900 chemicals and other agents since its founding in 1971





# WHAT DOES IARC'S "2B" MEAN?

- IARC categorizes substances and exposures into five groups:
  - Group 1: carcinogenic to humans
  - Group 2A: probably carcinogenic to humans
  - Group 2B: possibly carcinogenic to humans
  - Group 3: not classifiable as to carcinogenicity in humans
  - Group 4: probably not carcinogenic to humans
- Puts asphalt fumes in same category as cell phones and coffee.



# U.S. PAVING INDUSTRY RESPONSE

- The asphalt industry has worked for the past 20 years to reduce workers' exposure.
- We have partnered with government agencies, academic institutions, and unions to fill the science gaps.



# RESPONSE FROM LABORERS UNION



“People working in the asphalt paving industry should not be concerned about this new IARC classification. The two key animal studies on paving asphalt did not show any evidence of cancer risk, and the major IARC cancer study of people working in the paving industry in Europe did not show any increased risk for cancer.”

**DR. JIM MELIUS, TOP DOCTOR FOR THE LABORERS  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA**

# U.S. PAVING INDUSTRY RESPONSE



- The paving industry operates under conditions that support the comfort and health of workers
- We use engineering controls and warm-mix asphalt to ensure that workers' exposures are low



# U.S. ASPHALT PAVING INDUSTRY RECOGNITION



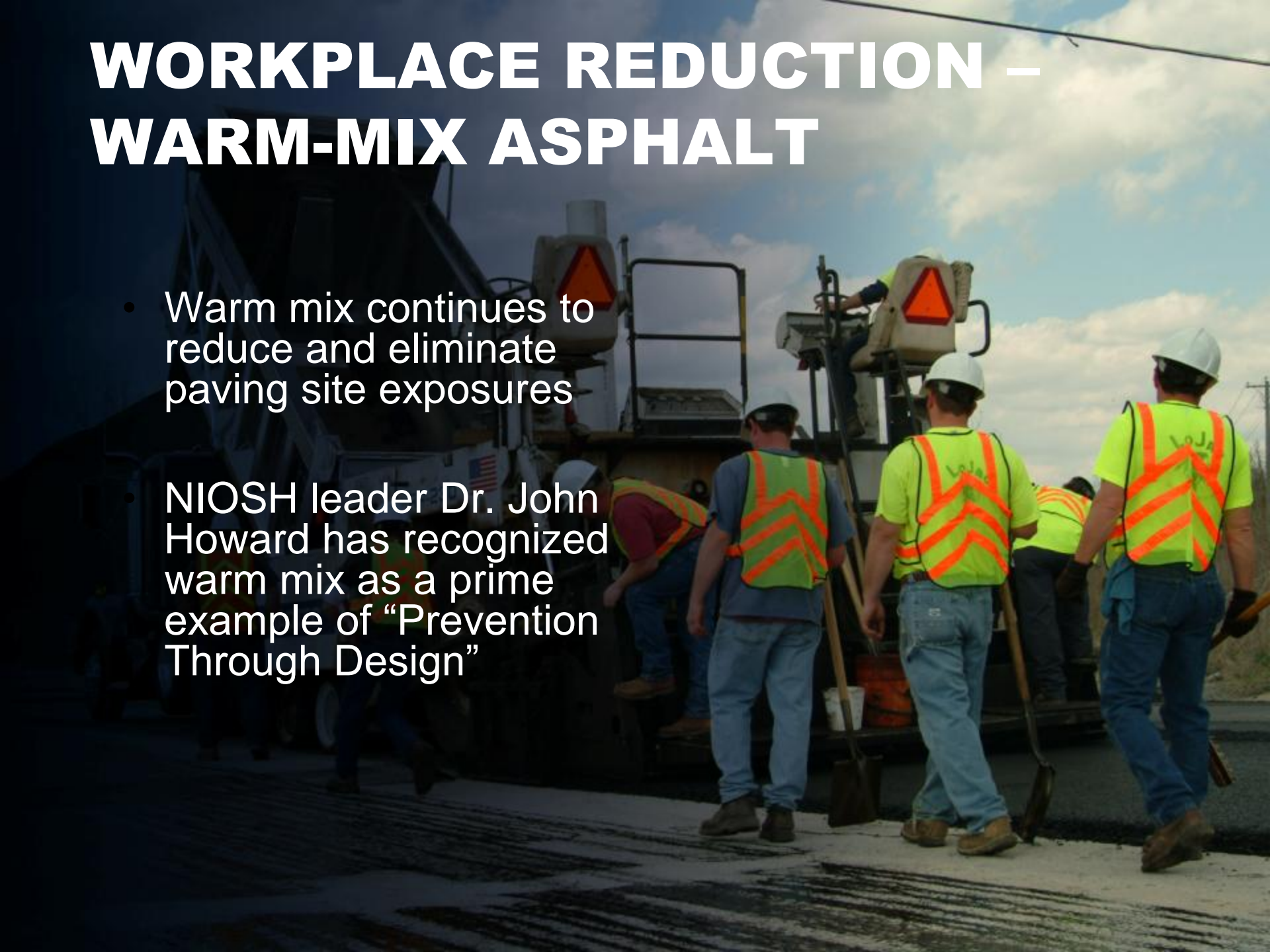
NIOSH commended the asphalt industry with its NORA Award for engineering controls on paving machines





# WORKPLACE REDUCTION – WARM-MIX ASPHALT

- Warm mix continues to reduce and eliminate paving site exposures
- NIOSH leader Dr. John Howard has recognized warm mix as a prime example of “Prevention Through Design”



# SUMMARY

- The health and safety of workers is our top priority
- The union's top doctor says, "People working in the asphalt paving industry should not be concerned about this new IARC classification."
- The asphalt paving industry will continue to operate in a manner that is safe for workers.





**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**

Questions?