



Working With Silica

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TOPIC: Working With Silica

Silicosis is a disabling, nonreversible and sometimes fatal lung disease caused by overexposure to respirable crystalline silica.

Know The Dangers

- When inhaled, silica particles can reach the deepest parts of the lungs
- Exposure to silica particles can cause breathing difficulties
- Prolonged exposure to silica can lead to silicosis, a potentially deadly disease

Take Action

- Monitor dust levels to determine silica exposure
- Establish environmental controls in enclosed areas such as cabs, booths, and workstations to reduce silica dust
- Replace absorbents containing silica with those without silica
- Do not use dry sweeping or compressed air as methods of clean-up
- Use dust suppression systems when feasible
- Provide training about the health effects and precautionary practices that reduce exposure to silica
- When sawing concrete or masonry use saws that provide water to the blade
- When rock drilling use water through the drill stem to reduce the amount of dust
- Respirators should not be the primary protection method

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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