

TOPIC: Silica – General

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PRIMARY POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS

- SILICOSIS (Lung Disease – Inflammation and Scarring in the Lungs)
- LUNG CANCER (Malignant Lung Tumor(s))

PRIMARY EXPOSURES FOR MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- Cutting, boring, drilling, chipping, jackhammering, etc. into concrete
- Work in close proximity to other trades that are cutting, boring, chipping, jackhammering, drilling, etc. into silica containing materials such as concrete, brick, block, tile, etc.
- Work in close proximity to other trades performing sand blasting



SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Wear a suitable respirator unless your company's competent person for silica informs you that overexposure will not occur even if you don't use respiratory protection.
- Before using any respirator, be sure you have the appropriate medical clearance, fit test, and respiratory protection training.
- Use appropriate engineering controls, such as High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA)-filtered dust collection systems, the wet method, and/or local exhaust ventilation whenever they are available.
- Use only sharp masonry drill bits and saw blades when drilling or cutting into concrete.
- Never dry sweep, dry brush, or use compressed air to clean clothing or surfaces in affected work areas.
- Be sure not to eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics in affected work areas.
- Wash your hands and face before eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics.
- If you have any questions or concerns about silica, immediately check with your company's *Competent Person* for silica.