



Toolbox TALK

MINIMIZING SILICA EXPOSURE

Silica is a common ingredient in many materials, including concrete, masonry, tile, and sandblasting media. Breathing in silica dust can result in silicosis, respiratory illness, lung disease, and kidney cancer.

When working around materials containing silica, use the following methods to reduce your exposure:

- Develop and follow an exposure control plan. Describe the tasks and areas where silica exposure may occur and the methods you will use to protect workers from exposure.
- Use engineering controls. Vacuum shrouds on tools and water delivery systems can dramatically reduce airborne silica. Use these tools in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to control exposures. A clogged vacuum is not effective. Maintain and empty vacuum shrouds per the manufacturer's specifications.
- Do not use compressed air or dry sweeping to clean silica-containing dust, as these methods cause the dust to become airborne.
- Keep your respirator in good condition and maintain it regularly. Perform a user seal self-check before relying on a respirator.
- Before you perform silica-producing work, you must complete proper training and ensure you have protection from airborne dust.
- Ensure you receive regular medical exams if you are exposed at or above the action level of 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air over an 8-hour day for 30 or more days per year. Employers are required to offer medical exams to such employees.

Following these procedures, and other policies your company establishes, will greatly reduce silica exposure risk.



Date:

ATTENDANCE RECORD

SUPERVISOR:

CREW MEMBERS PRESENT:

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:
