

ARE YOU READY?

On September 23, 2017, OSHA will require employers to limit their employees' exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust to 50 µg/m³ or lower, averaged over an eight-hour day.

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

According to health experts, inhaling dust containing silica in some instances may cause silicosis, lung cancer, COPD and other debilitating diseases. Dust collection systems can reduce airborne dust, helping to create a safer and healthier working environment.

WHAT IS CRYSTALLINE SILICA?

Silica, often referred to as quartz, is a very common mineral. It is found in many materials common on construction sites, including soil, sand, concrete, masonry, rock, granite, and landscaping materials. The dust created by cutting, grinding, drilling or otherwise disturbing these materials can contain crystalline silica particles. These dust particles are very small and invisible to the naked eye. When inhaled, even in very small amounts, silica dust can cause serious health hazards. Each exposure to silica adds to the lung damage.

WHAT IS SILICOSIS?

Silicosis is a disabling, irreversible, and sometimes fatal lung disease. When a worker inhales crystalline silica, the lungs react by developing hard nodules and scarring around the trapped silica particles. If the nodules become too large, breathing becomes difficult and death can result. There is no cure for this disease, but it is 100% preventable.

ARE YOU AT RISK?

If you do the following to concrete, mortar, sand, rock, masonry and some paints:

- Cut or saw
- Grind
- Drill
- Jackhammer
- Crush or demolish
- Abrasive or sand blast

Then the answer is YES!

WHY IT'S DEADLY

Inhaling crystalline silica can lead to serious, sometimes fatal illnesses including silicosis, lung cancer, tuberculosis (in those with silicosis), and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In addition, silica exposure has been linked to other illnesses including renal disease and other cancers. In 1996, the World Health Organization — International Agency on Cancer Research (IARC) identified crystalline silica as a "known human carcinogen" (they reaffirmed this position in 2009). The American Thoracic Society and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine have also recognized the adverse health effects of exposure to crystalline silica, including lung cancer.

Silicosis is 100% Preventable

Have you ever heard of the Hawk's Nest Tunnel Project?

It's been called America's worst industrial disaster. The construction of a three-mile-long tunnel to carry the New River through Gauley Mountain in West Virginia cost as many as 2,000 workers their lives.

At least 764 of the 1,213 men who worked underground at Hawk's Nest for at least two months died within five years of the tunnel's completion, having contracted silicosis as the result of drilling through miles of rock to build a hydro-electric plant for Union Carbide, which owned the tunnel. Only engineers and company executives wore air-filtering masks in the tunnel.

Topics To Be Covered

- Health Risk
- Preventative measures
- Equipment needed

There will be a number of manufacturer reps on hand to answer questions about the various Silica Dust Containment Solutions that they offer.

This event will be informative for both field and office personnel at both large and small construction firms. Make sure you attend.



Guest Speaker

Bill McDonald, CSP
Area Director at USDOL/OSHA

Bill has served with distinction as the Area Director in St. Louis since 2001. Throughout his career with OSHA, Bill has been privileged to serve in many national and regional leadership positions and task forces. He has earned numerous honors including the National Leadership Award and Area Office of the Year on multiple occasions from the Department of Labor. Bill proudly served in the United States Air Force. Bill has earned the distinction of Certified Safety Professional (CSP). Bill is an avid proponent of public and private partnerships to facilitate the reduction of injury, illness, and fatalities. Bill loves to hunt and fish as well as cheer on his favorite sports teams. He is a proud husband and father to seven children.



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April 28, 2017**

11:30 am to 3 pm
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