

Silica Dust

PROJECT / SITE	DATE	TALK LED BY

THE HAZARD

Cutting, grinding, drilling and chasing concrete, block, brick and stone releases respirable crystalline silica. You cannot see the fraction that does the damage, and the damage does not reverse.

WHAT GOES WRONG

- Dry cutting indoors or in a partly enclosed space because it was quicker to set up.
- Water or vacuum extraction fitted to the saw but switched off, empty or clogged.
- Everyone downwind of the cut carrying on, because only the operator is thought to be exposed.
- Dust cleaned up with a broom or compressed air, which puts it straight back in the air.

CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START

- Use the engineering control that comes with the tool: wet cutting or on-tool extraction.
- Check water flow and vacuum filters before the work, not after the first cut.
- Keep everyone not needed for the task out of the dust, and think about who is downwind.
- Use a properly fitted respirator where the controls alone are not enough.
- Clean up with a HEPA vacuum or wet methods. Never sweep dry and never use compressed air.

ASK THE CREW

1. Which saws are in use on this job, and which control is fitted to each one?
2. Who is downwind of the cutting today who is not doing the cutting?
3. When was the vacuum filter last changed?
4. What is being cut this week that we have not thought about as a silica job?

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
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SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON	SIGNATURE