1) What are the hazards involved with rock dust
   a. Silicosis
      i. A disabling, progressive, and often fatal lung disease

2) What is silica?
   a. Crystalline silica is a basic component of soil, sand, granite, and most types of rocks
   b. Silica is also used as an abrasive blasting agent
   c. Silicosis is caused by exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust
   d. Silica injuries can surface up to 15 years after exposure

3) What safe practices should be used to protect ourselves from silicosis?
   a. Use exhaust ventilation and blasting cabinets
   b. Use water trucks or hoses to remove dust
   c. Use vacuums with high-efficiency particulate filters
   d. NEVER use compressed air to clean dust
   e. Instead of dry sweeping, remove dust by wet sweeping or by using a compound
   f. Substitute with non-crystalline silica blasting materials
   g. When sawing concrete or masonry, use saws that provide water to the blade
   h. When rock drilling use water through the drill stem to reduce the amount of dust
   i. Use respirators and other PPE approved for protection against silica
   j. Do not eat, drink, or smoke around silica dust
   k. Always wash your hands and face after you leave the exposure area
   l. Provide training about the health effects and precautionary practices that reduce exposure to silica

4) Where are the silica hazards on our site?

5) Do we have any equipment that is letting dust in the cab?

6) Is there a way to reduce our silica exposure?

7) Do any of you know anyone with silicosis? What was their profession?

8) Can someone explain what silica does to your lungs?

9) Does anyone know the silica content of our sand, stone, soil, etc?
Toolbox Safety Talks
Silicosis

Make Time for Safety, Everyday! – Yes, production is important, but the focus must be on Safe Production! Keep that in the back of your mind. Don’t take risky chances and stay out of harm’s way. Nobody goes to work thinking ‘I’m going to get hurt or killed on the job, today!’ But every day 15,000-17,000 workers suffer disabling injuries on the job and another 11-17 are killed. What are you doing to make sure it doesn’t happen on your shift?

Keep stoking the fire; we can't let the 'Safety Train' run out of steam!

Date Presented: __________________________  Presented By: __________________________

Attendance Sheet

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