



Toolbox Safety Talks

Silicosis

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- 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?



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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
