

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 16 No 38 SILICA EXPOSURE

Exposure to silica dust can be detrimental to a workers' health. The effects may not manifest themselves until later in life after years of exposure. Masonry employees who are assigned to be the "saw man" are exposed to silica dust when cutting concrete block. There are ways to protect the user of the saw as well as other trades who may be near the saw cutting operations from silica dust exposure. One definitive way is to utilize the saw in accordance to the manufactures specifications. Most masonry contractors use "wet saws" to cut block and brick. By utilizing the saw with the activated water pump the water becomes an "Engineered Control" to prevent silica dust exposure. Another method of control silica control includes ventilation however ventilating the dust away from the saw cutter needs to be ventilated away from ALL workers near the saw. Finally, saw cutters may utilize an appropriate respirator but only after all other methods of control(s) have been attempted. Remember use of a respirator only provides protection for the worker wearing the respirator and not everyone else.



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