

TOPIC: Silica – Jackhammers & Powered Chipping Tools #5

PRIMARY POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS

- SILICOSIS (Lung Disease – Inflammation and Scarring in the Lungs)
- LUNG CANCER (Malignant Lung Tumor(s))

PRIMARY EXPOSURES FOR MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- Jackhammering or chipping into concrete



SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Wear a suitable respirator unless your company's *Competent Person* for silica informs you that overexposure will not occur without respiratory protection.
- Before using a respirator, be sure you have the appropriate medical clearance, fit test, and respiratory protection training.
- Use a jackhammer or hand-held powered chipping tool fitted with either a water delivery system that supplies a continuous stream or spray of water at the point of impact, **or** a commercially available shroud or cowl, and an adequate dust collection system.
- When using the water delivery system, make sure the water flow rate is strong enough to minimize visible dust.
- When using the shroud, or cowl/dust collection system, ensure that the system is designed for, and filtered by, High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.
- Before starting to work, make sure that the HEPA filter(s) is clean and that the dust collection system is working properly.
- Whether using the water delivery system or the dust collection system, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully to ensure the minimization of dust emissions.
- If you have any questions or concerns about silica, immediately check with your company's *Competent Person* for silica.