

## WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

Vol.23 | No.32 | Week of 08-06-24 SILICA

Date:

Job Name:

Most work that creates silica dust also creates a lot of noise. Protect your hearing with earplugs or ear muffs.

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

- Cutting, boring, drilling, chipping, jackhammering, etc. into concrete
- Work in close proximity to other trades that are cutting, boring, chipping, jackhammering, drilling, etc. into silica containing materials such as concrete, brick, block, tile, etc.
- Work in close proximity to other trades performing sand blasting

## Safe Work Practices

- Wear a suitable respirator unless your company's competent person for silica informs you that overexposure will not occur even if you do not use respiratory protection.
- Before using any respirator, be sure you have the appropriate medical clearance, fit test, and respiratory protection training.
- Never dry sweep, dry brush, or use compressed air to clean clothing or surfaces in affected work areas.
- Be sure not to eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics in affected work areas.
- Wash your hands and face before eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics.
- Whenever they are available, use standard drills and hammer drills fitted with a commercially available shroud or cowling, and an adequate dust collection system.
- Be sure to follow the tool/dust collection system manufacturers' instructions carefully to minimize dust emissions.
- When drilling holes to install pipe or duct hangers, make sure you clean out the holes with an approved HEPA filtered vacuum before installing the hangers.
- Use an exhaust ventilation system in conjunction with the dust collection system if visible airborne dust begins to accumulate while you are performing the work.
- If you have any questions or concerns about silica, immediately check with your supervisor and/or Therma's Safety Department.

**Supervisor Signature:** 



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