

# DUST HAZARDS

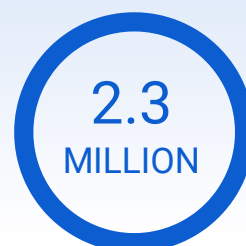


Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

## Key Points

1. **Dust hazards on construction sites** can cause serious respiratory and long-term health issues, affecting workers over time.
2. **Inhalation of silica dust** from cutting concrete, stone, or drywall can lead to severe lung diseases.
3. **Prolonged exposure to airborne dust** increases the risk of chronic conditions like silicosis, COPD, and lung cancer.
4. **Proper ventilation and dust control** measures, such as exhaust fans and air filters, help reduce airborne dust particles.
5. **Workers should wear respiratory protection** like N95 masks or respirators when exposed to heavy dust concentrations.
6. **Wet cutting, vacuum systems**, and dust suppression techniques like misting help minimize dangerous dust levels.
7. **Employers must provide comprehensive training** on dust risks, protective equipment, and safe work practices to reduce exposure.
8. **Regular air monitoring** ensures dust levels stay within safe exposure limits and helps identify areas needing better control measures.

OSHA estimates that over **2.3 million** construction workers are exposed to deadly silica dust annually



## Top 5 dust hazards...

1. **Respiratory Issues** – Inhaling dust can cause lung diseases like silicosis.
2. **Eye Irritation** – Dust particles can cause redness, itching, and vision problems.
3. **Explosion Risk** – Fine dust buildup can ignite and cause workplace explosions.
4. **Skin Irritation** – Prolonged dust exposure can lead to rashes and dryness.
5. **Equipment Damage** – Dust buildup can clog or wear down machinery.



1. Am I wearing the proper respiratory protection for dust exposure?
2. Is my work area properly ventilated to reduce dust buildup?
3. Am I following dust control measures like wet cutting or extraction?
4. Do I know the health risks of prolonged dust exposure?

Dust clouds rise, protect your eyes, mask and spray to keep harm at bay.

## Summary

Dust on construction sites can cause serious health risks, including lung disease, eye irritation, and skin problems. Workers should be most aware of silica dust exposure, proper ventilation, and wearing protective equipment to prevent long-term respiratory issues and maintain a safe work environment.



OSHA sets regulations to protect workers from hazardous dust exposure, particularly in industries like construction where materials such as concrete, wood, and metal generate airborne particles. Inhalation of dust can lead to respiratory diseases, lung damage, and long-term health issues, requiring strict safety measures.

### Key OSHA Dust Regulation

29 CFR 1926.1153 – Silica Dust Exposure

OSHA limits worker exposure to silica dust from cutting, grinding, or drilling concrete.

Employers must implement dust control methods, provide respiratory protection, and conduct air monitoring to prevent lung diseases like silicosis.



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Toolbox Talk # 36

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