



SAFETY COMPLIANCE COMPANY INC. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Customized Written Programs

- ❖ Safety Manual (Injury and Illness Prevention Program)
 - ✓ General Industry
 - ✓ Construction
- ❖ Respiratory Program
- ❖ Lockout, Tagout, Blockout (LOTO) Program
- ❖ Confined Space Program
- ❖ Trenching, Excavation and Scaffolding Program
- ❖ Sexual Harassment Program
- ❖ Title 49 - California Class A/B Driver Random Drug Testing Program (*California Only*)
- ❖ Drug Free Workplace Program (*California Only*)
- ❖ Ergonomics Program
- ❖ Exposure Control and Bloodborne Pathogens Program
- ❖ Dental Injury and Illness Prevention Program
- ❖ Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Training/Inspections and Consultation Services

- ❖ Federal OSHA 10/30 Hour Construction Certification Courses
- ❖ Ongoing Safety Training (*Samples*):
 - Personal Protection Equipment
 - Emergency Evacuation
 - Fire Safety
 - Hazard Communication – MSDS “Right to Know”
 - Lockout Tagout and Blockout (authorized/affected persons)
 - Lifting Safety
 - Job specific training
- ❖ Respirator Safety Training – Fit testing, maintenance, storage and medical questionnaire
- ❖ Respirator Medical Questionnaire – RN Evaluations
- ❖ Forklift/Reach Lift/Aerial Device/Elevated Platform Training/Certification
- ❖ Supervisors Training
- ❖ Scaffolding Certification Training
- ❖ Trenching and Excavation Certification Training
- ❖ Fall Protection Certification Training
- ❖ Confined Space Certification Training
- ❖ Construction – Superintendent/Forman Training
- ❖ Jobsite/Facility Inspections



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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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2006

NIOSH Publication No. 2006-110:

Silicosis - Working with Cement Roofing Tiles: A Silica Hazard



Although respirable silica is a recognized health hazard in the construction industry, only recently has this exposure been documented in roofers. NIOSH has measured respirable silica levels up to four times the recommended exposure limit around roofers cutting cement products such as when roofing tiles are cut during the installation process. This cutting generates clouds of silica-containing dust. Respirable silica exposure may also occur when blowers or dry sweeping methods are used to clean the roof. This practice can produce large silica-containing dust clouds. NIOSH does not recommend this practice. Anyone who inhales dust generated by cutting cement tiles or cleaning the residue will be exposed to respirable silica, placing them at risk for developing silicosis.

What is Silicosis?

Silicosis is a lung disease caused by breathing dust that has silica in it. The term "respirable silica" is used for silica particles that are small enough to be inhaled and deposited in the deepest parts of the lung. If workers inhale too much respirable silica dust, it causes scar tissue to develop in the lungs, resulting in silicosis. Lung damage may be permanent and disabling and may lead to death. There is no cure for silicosis, but it can be prevented.

Symptoms of Silicosis

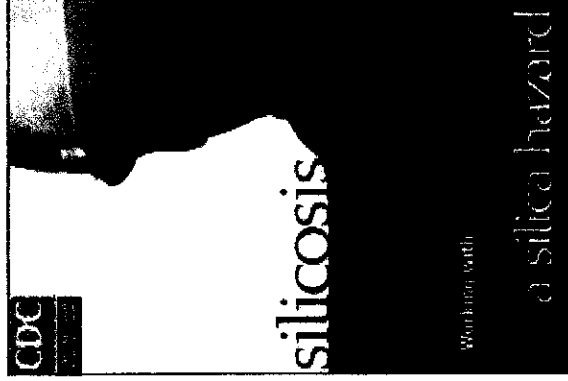
Symptoms of silicosis may include

- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Severe cough
- Chest pain

These symptoms can become worse over time. It is important to see a doctor if you have these symptoms. Be sure to tell your doctor about your job and any silica exposures, so he or she can consider silicosis as a possible cause of your symptoms.

The Facts

- Cement tiles are used on roofs across the United States but are more common in the



Related Resources/Publications:

[Silica Topic Page](#)

[Respirators Topic Page](#)

This document is also available in PDF format.

[2006-110.pdf](#)
2 pages, 168kb

Southern states.

- Cement tiles can contain silica. The silica content of cement tiles should be listed by the tile manufacturer on a material safety data sheet.
- Cutting, crushing, drilling, or blasting the tiles creates silica-containing dust, which workers breathe in.
- Overexposure to silica can cause silicosis.
- Over 1,000,000 U.S. workers are at risk for developing silicosis each year.
- Each year more than 200 U.S. workers die from silicosis and hundreds more become disabled.
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Taking Steps to Protect Workers

Controlling exposure to silica dust at the source should be the primary means for protecting workers from silicosis. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is working with employers and employees in the roofing industry to

better understand which tasks in tile roofing may expose roofers to silica dust, and identify practical and effective ways to reduce exposures to silica.

NIOSH is working with roofers, roofing contractors, tile manufacturers, and other interested parties to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of engineering controls for cutting concrete roofing tiles such as:

- Wet cutting methods (water spray or mist)
- Local exhaust/vacuum system

Cutting station on the ground to reduce exposure of coworkers

Using Respirators

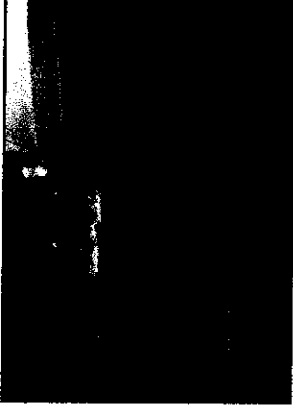
Until respirable silica exposures can be eliminated or reduced below current guidelines, a respirator program should be established. Steps for implementing a respirator program include:

- Regular air monitoring
- Training for workers using respirators
- Use of proper NIOSH approved respirators



- A medical examination of the worker's ability to work while using a respirator
- Testing to make sure respirators fit
- Maintenance, inspection, cleaning, and storage of respirators

For more information about respirator programs, including what respirators have received NIOSH approval as safe and effective, please visit the NIOSH website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh> and click on the respirator link.



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) works to assure safe and healthy conditions for workers through research, education and training in occupational safety and health.

For more information about silica health effects and prevention methods contact us at:

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Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998
(p): 513-841-4386
(f): 513-458-7105

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>
1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674)
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E-mail: pubstaff@cdc.gov

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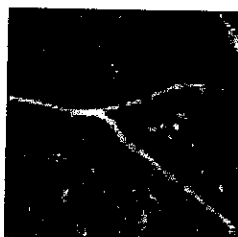
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Silicosis and Lung Cancer



Silicosis and Silica News - [Return to Menu](#)

OSHA Fines Massachusetts Contractor \$60,000 for Silica Hazards

02/25/2005 - A Wilmington, Mass., contractor's failure to safeguard workers against potentially deadly silica hazards during brick repointing work at St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, Mass., has resulted in \$60,000 in proposed fines from OSHA.

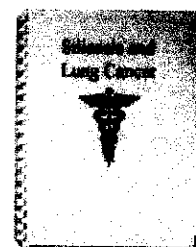
On Aug. 17, 2004, employees of NER Construction Management Inc. were repointing Xavier Hall, a grinding operation that produced and engulfed them in clouds of silica-containing brick dust, according to the agency. OSHA standards require that effective engineering controls, such as wet cutting saws, vacuum grinders or other types of local exhaust ventilation first be used to reduce dust levels below permissible exposure limits. No controls were in place or in use at the time, the agency says.

Though the exposed employees wore respirators, those devices alone were insufficient protection. The silica hazard was aggravated by the company's failure to medically evaluate all workers to determine if they could safely use respirators and by its failure to perform fit-testing to ensure that the respirators had a proper seal.

Silica is a human lung carcinogen. Prolonged inhalation can lead to silicosis, a disabling and potentially fatal scarring of the lungs that reduces their ability to take in oxygen.

As a result of prior OSHA inspections, NER knew

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what safeguards were required, yet did not use them, according to the agency. Thus, OSHA has issued one willful citation to the company, with \$55,000 in proposed penalties, for the lack of engineering controls and resulting silica overexposures and for not medically evaluating workers for their fitness to wear respirators. OSHA defines a willful violation as one committed with an intentional disregard of, or plain indifference to, the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and regulations.

NER faces an additional \$5,000 fine for a serious citation for not performing respirator fit testing. A serious violation is one in which there is a substantial possibility that death or serious physical harm can result to an employee.

NER has 15 business days from receipt of its citations to comply or contest the citations.
- Josh Cable
