

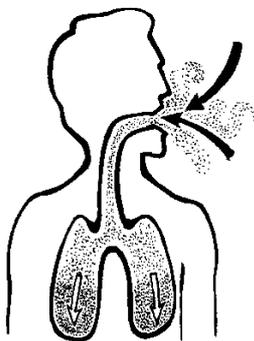
WORKING SAFELY with Dry Concrete Materials

WHEN TO TAKE CARE

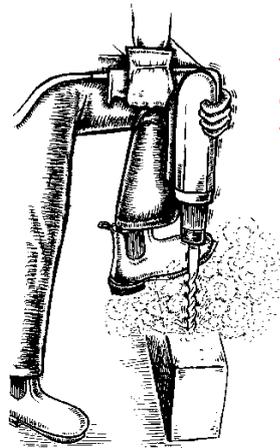
Concrete is one of the most widely used construction materials. Anyone who uses concrete or is responsible for managing or supervising its use should be aware that it may be a hazard. Professional advice should be obtained for appropriate risk management strategies.

DUST

Concrete contains crystalline silica which is the most commonly found mineral on earth. Concrete dust contains particles of crystalline silica which if small enough can be breathed into the lungs.



Exposure to this dust over a long period of time could result in your lungs being affected by damage and scarring resulting in shortness of breath and silicosis. You should refer to your suppliers' Material Safety Data Sheets for further information.

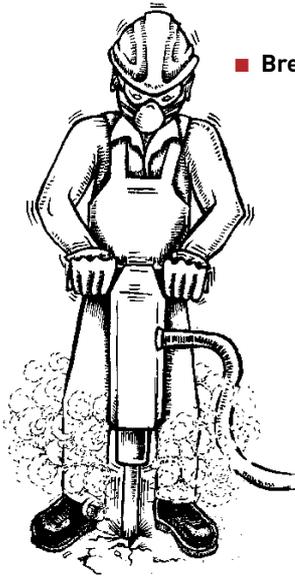


You can be exposed to concrete dust in the following situations:

- Drilling
- Opening concrete bags

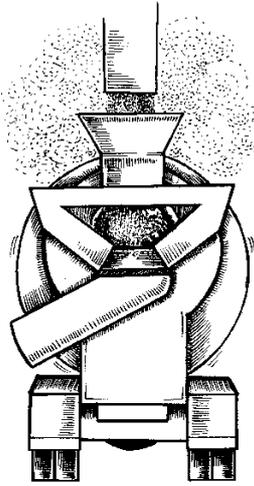


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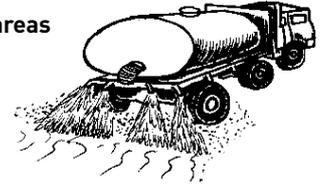


■ Breaking concrete

■ Concrete batching



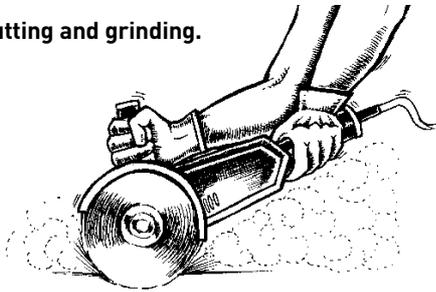
■ Wet down dusty work areas and processes



■ Clean up every day by wet sweeping or vacuuming.



■ Cutting and grinding.



Personal Protective Equipment

PPE may be required in addition to extraction systems, good ventilation and safe work practices.



■ Use disposable masks for low levels of dust

■ Use half-face respirators with filters for medium dust levels

HOW TO TAKE CARE

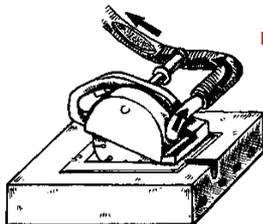
Safe work practices should always be employed to protect yourself and others from any hazards caused by working with dry concrete materials.

Preventing Exposure to Dust

Dust must be prevented from entering the lungs to protect against long term health effects. The methods for addressing this will depend on the results of a risk assessment and, where necessary, the advice of experts.

Extraction Systems, Good Ventilation and Safe Work Practices

These are the preferred methods for reducing the amount of dust in the air when required by risk assessments:



■ Use power tools with dust extraction devices

■ Provide sealed control cabins



■ Use battery-powered respirators that filter air supplied to a full-face mask for high dust levels or where people have facial hair.

Professional advice should be sought in order to decide the choice of respirator for the application.

OTHER HAZARDS

What other hazards are there with handling dry concrete materials?

- Manual handling
- Noise
- Particles could enter your eyes
- Skin irritation
- Falling objects on head and feet.

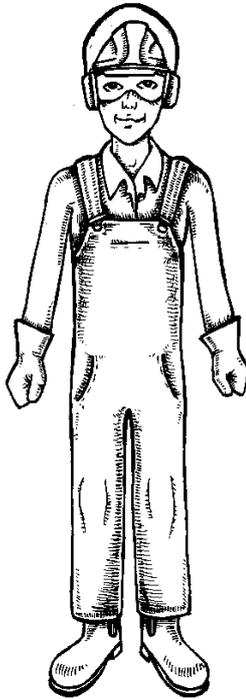
Preventing Harm From Other Hazards

■ Manual Handling

Assess the task, obtain correct equipment or seek help.



■ Noise, Falling Objects, Eye Particles, Skin Irritation



Wear other protective equipment as required:

- Hard hat
- Long sleeves
- Ear protection
- Gloves
- Eye protection
- Long pants
- Safety boots.

PPE must comply with Australian Standards.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Product MSDS
- Your local State Health and Safety Authority

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