



The Cutter

Quarterly Newsletter

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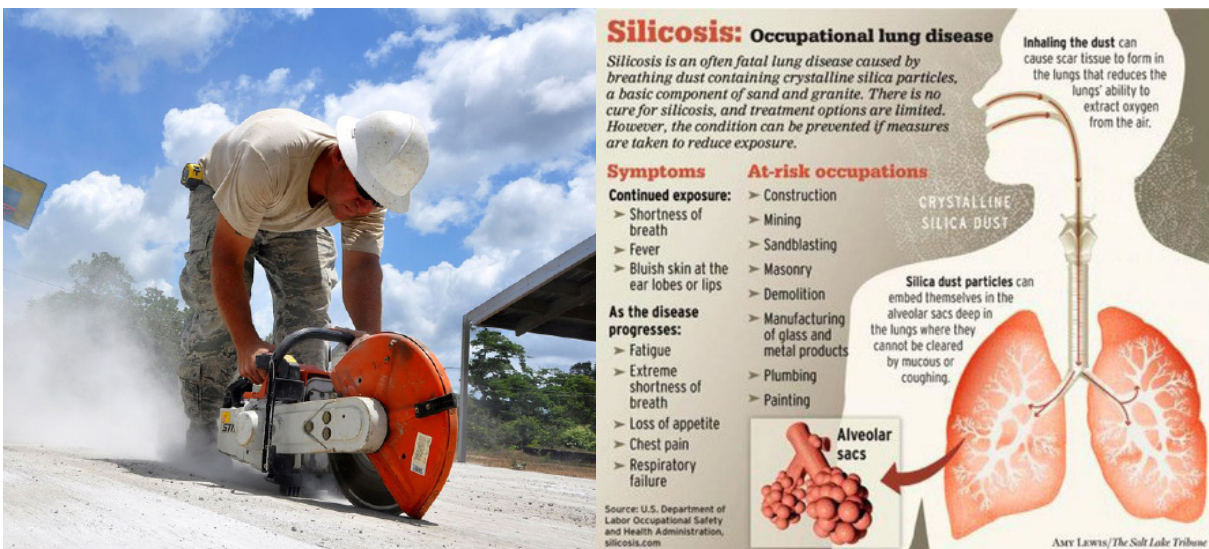


Crystalline Silica Health & Safety

Crystalline Silica dust is perhaps the most significant threat that workers face on a construction site! There are many challenges on worksites that face the concrete cutting and sawing industry everyday. Getting access to water when you need it is one of the primary challenges.

Whether you're cutting or core drilling concrete, you need water to suppress the dust and maintain the life of your diamond blades.

SafeWork Australia has identified that 69% of reported hazards are from airborne irritants and over half of these directly relate to crystalline silica dust. Hence making crystalline silica dust one of the most significant threats to workers on today's construction sites.



If crystalline silica dust is breathed in day after day, the person exposed is at an increased risk of contracting silicosis of the lungs. This risk increases over time so you need to be sure to implement measures to restrict dust and that's why having a reliable water source is vital.

Today, all States and Territories in Australia have work health and safety laws that explain duty of care for employers and workers' responsibilities. All Australian workplaces must follow work health and safety laws. These can vary between states and territories although the duty of care for employers and workers across Australia is similar.

- Employers are required to ensure the health and safety of their workers and others at their workplace.
- Employers have a duty to control the risks associated with work.

Crystalline Silica Health & Safety

Workers must take reasonable care of their own health and safety, and mostly will try to find a tap nearby using a hand pump system or trying to find a hose long enough.

Don't be fooled by some of these options concrete cutters and drillers use for water supply and silica dust suppression.

Hand Pump

Many workers use cheap hand pump options, which deteriorate quickly subject to breakages and you need a second person to use them, which is not an efficient way of working.

Hose and Tap

Sometimes the old-fashioned way seems the easiest, but it is not always the way. Getting access to a tap and a long enough hose is a challenge I am sure you have all faced from time to time. What happens when your job is too far away, and the hose isn't long enough, or if there simply isn't a tap where you need it.

Battery operated water tanks

These water tanks that pair with concrete cutters and saws from the same manufacturer seem like an easy option – you buy a concrete cutter and pair it with the water source, but having a battery that can run out, fail or constantly needs charging can make the job harder than it needs to be.

The answer may be as simple as investing in a mobile water supply unit that doesn't require the use of pump, battery or electronics. Whatever you decide, be sure to put the health and safety of your employees first.

