



MINING SILICA CONTROL TOOL

SILICA AND YOUR HEALTH

HEALTH HAZARD

You can be in danger even if you don't see the dust. Silica particles can be small enough to enter the deepest parts of the lungs. Prolonged breathing of fine silica dust can cause "silicosis" (scarring of lung tissue), cancer, and other forms of lung disease. Damage can be permanent and symptoms may not appear for many years. Symptoms can worsen over time and can lead to death. Exposure to silica has also been linked to kidney disease, reduced lung function and other disorders.

EXPOSURE RISK FOR AGGREGATE OPERATIONS

Silica is the basic component of sand and rock. The crystalline forms, such as quartz, are the biggest health concern. Exposure to fine silica dust during mining activities can cause serious lung disease.

SOURCES OF SILICA

Mining activities that can generate silica dust include:
Crushing, Loading, Hauling, Drilling, Dumping

Occupations with higher risk include:
Groundsperson, Quality Control, Drillers, Maintenance, Crusher, Loader & Dozer Operators, Blasters

SILICA IS KNOWN TO CAUSE CANCER

PROTECT YOURSELF USING DUST EXPOSURE CONTROLS

ENGINEERING

Use **Water** in areas with high activity and where employees are working
Enclosed Cabs must be regularly maintained and have working A/C, good seals, pressurization and filtration

ADMINISTRATIVE

Follow **Safe Work Procedures** when working in dusty areas or job activities
Train to understand the hazards and take the right preventative measures

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Wear a Respirator when other controls don't work well enough. Your employer should have a full, written respiratory protection program
Decontaminate by removing dusty work clothes and washing up before eating or going home

Need help establishing a plan to manage silica exposure at your site?



Visit mining.silicacontroltool.com to find out your exposure risk.



For more information please contact:
Mine.OccHealth@gov.bc.ca

or visit
gov.bc.ca/mineshealthsafety

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