

SILICA HAZARD ALERT

Exposure Risk for Aggregate Operations

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



Sources of Silica

Mining activities that can generate silica dust include:

Crushing Loading Hauling Drilling Dumping

Occupations with higher risk include:

**Ground-person Quality Control Maintenance
Crusher, Loader & Dozer Operators**



Dry sweeping and using compressed air for cleaning are **High Exposure** tasks that should be strictly avoided. Instead perform wet sweeping or vacuuming.

Protect Yourself Using Dust Exposure Controls

Health Hazard

You can be in danger even if you don't see the dust. Silica particles can be small enough to enter the deep 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.

Silica Is A Known Human Carcinogen

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

PPE
Wear a Respirator when other controls don't work well enough. Your employer is required to have a full, written respiratory protection program

Decontaminate by removing dusty work clothes and washing up before eating or going home

