

SAFETY MEETING

Company Name: Superior Waterproofing Job Name or #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/17/18

SILICA UPDATE 08/2018

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**OSHA is issuing citations for failure to comply with the silica standard. The #1 citation is NO WRITTEN SILICA PLAN at the jobsite (or not reviewed and signed by every worker on site). #2 is not following OSHA Table 1 or air sampling. IT IS THE FOREMAN'S responsibility to ensure there is a written silica plan before you begin work. If there is not a plan contact Bob or Debbie immediately.**

Silicosis is a **disabling, irreversible and often fatal** lung disease caused by inhaling dust that has silica in it. Although there is **no cure** for silicosis, the good news is that it is **entirely preventable**.

Silica is a real hazard. It damages your lungs in more or less the same way asbestos does. Whenever you inhale crystalline silica, your lung tissue reacts by forming nodules and scarring around the trapped silica particles. Silicosis is the disease that results when this scar tissue forms in the lungs and reduces the ability of your lungs to absorb the oxygen in the air. As the silicosis gets worse, and more scarring develops, breathing becomes difficult and the one result can be disability or death. Symptoms of silicosis can include shortness of breath while exercising, fever, bluish skin at ear lobes or lips, fatigue, loss of appetite, or any combination of these.

*There are actions you can take that will limit your exposure to silica and prevent silicosis.*

The first thing you can do is, whenever possible, eliminate the silica hazard by using a different, safety material that doesn't contain silica. Of course, removing silica is not always possible. The next best thing is to control the dust with engineering controls. This means keeping the silica out of the air. **Some controls include installing local exhaust ventilation, using water to wet down dust as it is being created (like wet cutting tile or brick), and using dust-collection systems on machines that generate dust.**

**The last option is to wear personal protective equipment** like a respirator when necessary. Do not alter the respirator. If you have a beard or mustache, it may prevent you from getting a good seal on your respirator. If your work requires a respirator, you will have to shave your facial hair.

You can also follow safe work practices to reduce your silica intake. Know which tasks can lead to silica exposure. Practice good personal hygiene. Wash your hands and face before eating or drinking outside of the exposure area. Whenever possible, change into washable or disposable work clothes at the beginning of your shift, or shower and change into clean clothes before leaving the jobsite. Never eat, drink, smoke or apply cosmetics in areas where silica dust is present.

*due by 8/24/18 for jobsite card*

**QUESTIONS:** 1. Is silicosis preventable? YES NO

2. Name one way you can eliminate exposure to silica dust. \_\_\_\_\_

3. September 23, 2017 was the effective date for the new Silica Standard. You must have a written silica control plan on every jobsite and you must follow the plan. You must be using vacs or water to control dust. No dry sweeping or blowing dust. TRUE

**WHAT UNSAFE OPERATIONS DID YOU FIND ON YOUR JOBSITE THIS WEEK?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What Corrective action was taken?** \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Attended By \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_