Is your worksite safe from silica?

VTHC APPROVED SAFETY STANDARD
VTHC2018.01A

EXPOSURE STANDARD
0.025mg/m³ as an 8hr TWA

Silica dust is so fine it can enter the deepest parts of the lungs. Silica dust remains in the lungs and causes irreversible scarring. Exposure to silica dust can lead to fatal diseases including silicosis and lung cancer. There is no known cure for silicosis – it can be a death sentence.

Employers must not expose workers to respirable silica dust at or above 0.025mg/m³ as an 8 hour time weighted average (TWA). Employers must take action to review control measures once respirable silica dust reaches 0.0125mg/m³ as an 8hr TWA.

There is no safe level of exposure to silica dust, but employers must ensure they limit risk to employees by meeting this standard.