



DUSTS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

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To some dusts may seem like more of annoyance than a hazard. However, did you know that some dusts can lead to Silicosis or even cancer?

There are two basic types of dust that are concerning to us in the workplace:

- Respirable Dust – dust with small enough particles that they can enter the lungs and alveoli within the lungs.
- Inhalable Dust – Larger or heavier particles that get trapped in the nose, mouth or throat.

Health Effects of Dust Exposure

- Eye Irritation
- Skin Irritation
- Irritation of the stomach and intestines if swallowed
- Both acute and chronic respiratory conditions



Work Activities that Generate Dust

- Dry cutting (concrete, stone, etc.)
- Dry sweeping or using compressed air
- Milling, grinding, sanding, sand-blasting
- Stockpiling large volumes of materials like soil and sand



How to Reduce Dust Exposure

- Utilize wet cutting when possible
- Utilize on tool dust collection
- Use less harmful materials
- Use local exhaust ventilation systems
- Utilize a tight fitting respirator (Are you fit tested?)
- Utilize washing facilities and exercise good hygiene standards.

**DUST EXPOSURE CAN LEAD TO ACUTE AND CHRONIC RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS
CONSULT THE TOWN OF PERINTON SAFETY MANUAL FOR OUR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION
PROGRAM**