



SESSION OVERVIEW

- Overview – Worksafe view of the sector
- Construction Workplace Injury Toll
- Falls from Heights programme – update
- Health vs Safety – Breathing Clean Air
- What Our Inspectors are Looking for
- Health & Safety Reform Bill update – questions

WORKSAFE – OUR VIEW OF THE SECTOR



- Large & Diverse
- SME Focused
- Labour Intensive
- High Risk sector
- Significant growth
- Large “at risk workforce”



SOME NUMBERS – FATALITIES (2008 - 2014)

- 68 fatal accidents between 2008 and 2014 – av 11 per year
- Vehicle-related accidents, falls from heights and being hit by falling objects are the major causes of fatalities in construction.
- 185 deaths from exposure to dusts per year
- Deaths from exposures nearly 20 x higher than accidents



SOME NUMBERS—SERIOUS HARM (2008 – 2014)

INJURY MECHANISM	PERCENTAGE/NUMBER OF SEVERE INJURIES	AVERAGE DAYS OFF WORK	KEY FACTORS
Body Stressing	39% (8,066)	166	Often lifting - shoulder and back injuries common
Fall from height	15% (3,055)	236	Ladders and stepladders (40%) and roofs (16%) were commonly noted
Falls, Trips, and Slips	13% (2,899)	144	Stairs/steps, holes, stepladders, and worksite clutter pose risks



WORKSAFE'S PREVENTING FALLS FROM HEIGHT CAMPAIGN IS NOW INTO ITS 4TH YEAR





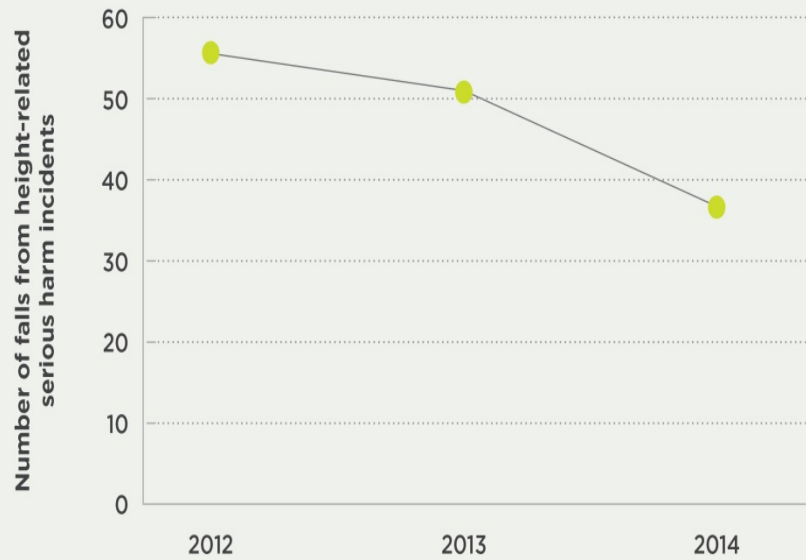
WORKSAFE'S CONSISTENT MESSAGES HAVE BEEN:

- It is not the height, it is the fall that you should be concerned with.
- People with a duty must take all practicable steps to ensure the safety of workers when they are exposed to a fall –
- Doing nothing is not an option.
- To stay safe when working at height, you need to follow these steps in sequence:
 - Eliminate
 - Isolate
 - Minimise

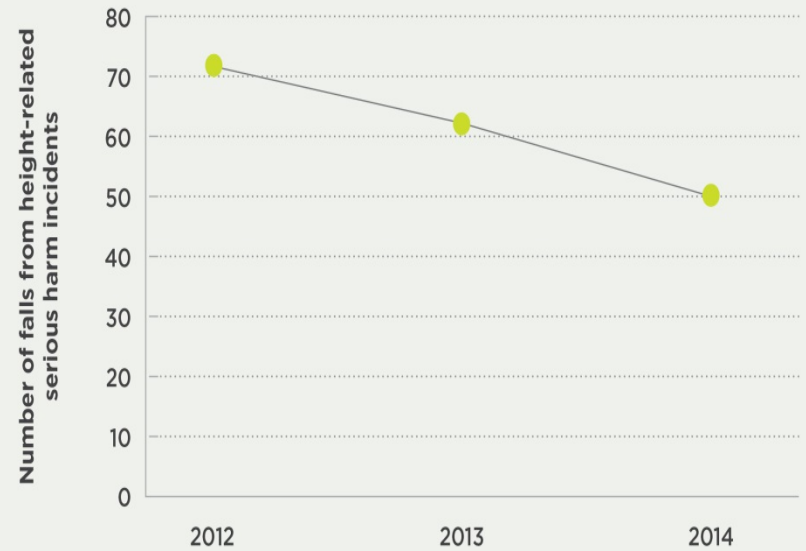


FALLS FROM HEIGHTS

SPECIALIST TRADES



ALL CONSTRUCTION



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH WORKSAFE FOCUS- CLEAR AIR

We need to do more



- Treat Health like Safety
- Construction Dust - Silica & Asbestos
- Construction Noise



EXAMPLES



ROAD WORKERS CUTTING CONCRETE EDGING

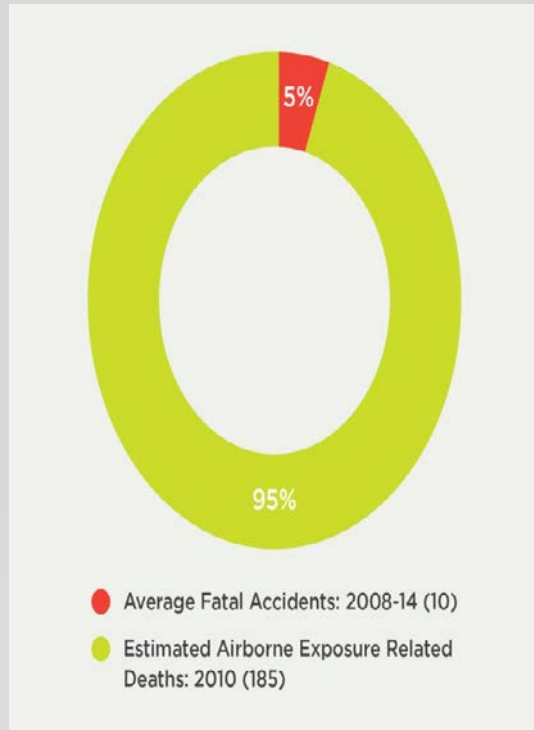


JACKHAMMERING & CONCRETE GRINDING



CONSTRUCTION DUST – A REAL DANGER

- Exposure to dusts (64%), asbestos (23%) and other airborne substances, including silica, caused an estimated **185 deaths and 731 hospitalisations in 2010**
- Deaths from **occupational diseases linked to airborne exposures** are estimated to have been **almost 20 times higher than deaths from accidents** (based on 2010 figures)
- By combining **smoking and exposure** to construction dust the **risk increases significantly**



CONSTRUCTION DUST — TREAT HEALTH LIKE SAFETY

WORKSAFE
NEW ZEALAND | 0800 030 040

FACT SHEET

SILICA DUST IN CONSTRUCTION

Construction work can produce silica dust. Exposure to silica dust is dangerous and can cause serious lung disease. Remove silica dust from a worksite, or control any exposure to ensure worker safety.

WHAT IS SILICA?
Silica is a natural substance found in materials on construction sites, such as concrete, bricks, rocks, stone, sand and clay. Dust containing silica is created when these materials are cut, ground, drilled or otherwise disturbed. If the silica particles in the dust are small enough (known as respirable crystalline silica or RCSF) it can be breathed deep into the lungs and cause damage. The dust that can be breathed in is not always visible to the naked eye.

Tasks which may expose construction workers to silica dust include:

- Sawing, hammering, sanding, drilling, grinding and chipping concrete or masonry (brick, stone and fibre cement products).
- Demolishing concrete and masonry structures.
- Abrasive blasting of concrete and other materials (especially where sand is used as the abrasive).
- Dry sweeping or the pressurised air blowing of concrete and rock.
- Chipping, hammering and drilling rock. Also the crushing, loading, hauling and dumping of rock.

HOW DOES EXPOSURE TO SILICA DUST HARM HEALTH?
Lung disease can develop from breathing in dust that contains silica. Silicosis (breathing in silica dust can cause the lung tissue to scar, a condition referred to as silicosis). This scarring results in a loss of lung function, usually characterised by breathlessness. The effects of silicosis are permanent and may continue to develop even after exposure has stopped. Once silicosis has developed, there could be an increased risk of kidney disease and tuberculosis.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): COPD is a term that refers to a chronic lung condition that can result from breathing in silica dust. It can lead to breathing difficulties.



Dust exposure while working with fibre cement products.

© Silicosis in the Workplace by Silica Dust in a Respirable Silica Dust in PDF

worksafe.govt.nz
0800 030 040

- WorkSafe has an increased focus on the effects of construction dust
- Silica is a major constituent of construction materials such as bricks, concrete, stone and mortar
- Medical evidence show workers exposed to Silica are at high risk of developing lung disease.
- Many workers unaware of health risks
- Large number were not using RPE
- Study showed workers being exposed to respirable dust exceeding national and international levels.



KEY INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

Plant/Tools

- Dust extraction on equipment hand held devices
- When buying tools ensure that there are dust suppression capabilities
- Use of on-tool shrouds
- Use correct blade, as recommended by manufacturer, keep maintained

PPE

- Where visible dust is present RPE must be worn
- Annual fit testing & workers must be clean shaven
- Worker education on risks & controls of Construction dust is a must
- Eye protection, glasses, goggles or face shield & hearing protection



KEY INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

Housekeeping

- Dry sweeping, compressed air to be eliminated from sites
- Vacuum with an industrial vacuum cleaner designed for use with silica dust
- Waste from vacuum system's must be bagged and sealed for disposal

Linear Board

- Use specifically designed saw blades for cutting fibre cement boards
- When saws are used, a dust collection system is required
- Cutting areas should be set up to ensure that dust does not travel



RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - RPE

Key Areas to consider

RPE – Get the “Right” Device, fit tested, no facial hair, make sure it is worn.

Cleaning , storage & maintenance

Training and education

Health Monitoring - Lung function testing and respiratory questionnaire



Disposable respirator (for low to medium dust levels)



Half-face respirator (for low to medium dust levels)



Full-face respirator (for medium dust levels)



Full-face powered respirator (for high dust levels or people with facial hair)