Silica Dust: Seismic

It Will Take Your Breath Away!

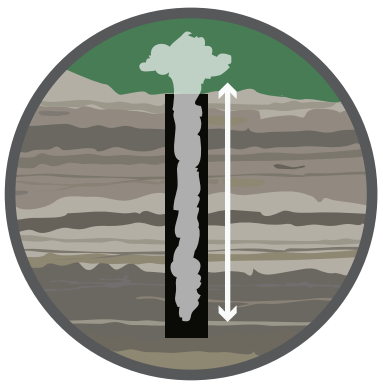
What is it?

Silica is a naturally occurring mineral found in sand, rock and dry mixable products. Silica is hazardous when it is inhaled, often as a dust. When silica dust is visible, overexposure is often just a matter of time without safety measures. The health effects are typically not felt right away, but years later.

Crystalline (Quartz)
Found in rock, sand, cement

Crystals in Lungs

Silica Risk Factors

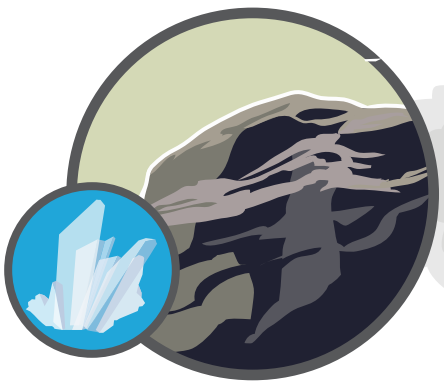


HOLE DEPTH

NUMBER OF HOLES IN A DAY

DIAMETER OF HOLE

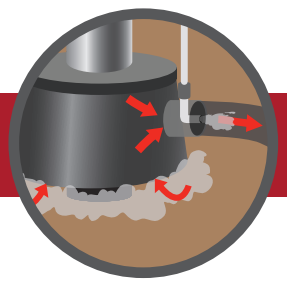
NATURAL VENTILATION



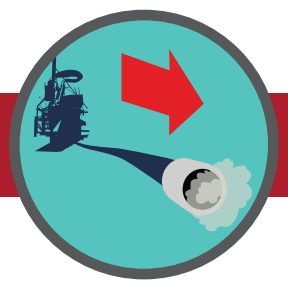
EXPOSED ROCK/QUARTZ %

NATURALLY DRY AND WET HOLES

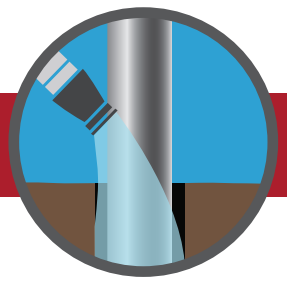
Safety Measures



Dust Capture



Hose Downwind



Water Injection

Respirators

Rock Dust, A Familiar Foe

When you're hanging off the side of a mountain trying to drill a seismic hole, often the last thing on your mind is dust. However, being safe includes everything, not just what might affect you today, but what might affect you in the future. This is why understanding and controlling exposure to rock dust is so important. -Seismic Driller

ENFORM
The Safety Association for Canada's Upstream Oil and Gas Industry