

TOOLBOX TALK — SILICA — THE DUST WITH A NUMBER

TOOLBOX TALK

Five to ten minutes at the workplace, spoken by the supervisor, recorded below — and two-way, or it is not a talk

KD-TBT-SI-021 Rev A0

WHY THIS TALK: Respirable crystalline silica is the asbestos of our generation: cutting and grinding concrete, stone and mortar releases a dust fine enough to reach the deep lung, and silicosis, once started, does not stop.

1 THE SESSION

SITE / PROJECT

DELIVERED BY

DATE

TIME

2 THE POINTS TO MAKE — TICK AS COVERED, IN YOUR OWN WORDS

- ☐ The tiny fraction is the killer: what reaches the deep lung is invisible in normal light — the visible cloud is just the warning that plenty more is airborne
- ☐ Water on the blade turns most of the dust to slurry before it can be breathed — the suppression kit is not optional trim on the saw
- ☐ On-tool extraction with an M-class vacuum where water cannot go — and the vac emptied without recreating the cloud
- ☐ The chase, the core, the quick cut all count: two minutes of dry cutting can exceed a day's safe exposure
- ☐ Face-fitted FFP3 on top of — never instead of — the wet or extracted method
- ☐ Downwind and downstairs matters: your cut travels to trades who never touched the saw
- ☐ Silicosis, COPD and lung cancer are the bill, decades later, and there is no treatment that undoes it

MADE SPECIFIC TO THIS SITE

3 ASK THE CREW — AND WRITE DOWN WHAT COMES BACK

- Which cutting or grinding task this week could be done wet that currently is not?
- Where does the dust from your cutting area actually go?
- Is there an M-class vac on this site, and does the hose fit the tools making the dust?

WHAT THE CREW RAISED, AND WHAT HAPPENS ABOUT IT

4 WHO WAS THERE

NAME

COMPANY

SIGNATURE

RECORD COMPLETED BY

SIGNATURE

DATE

FILED WHERE

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	review	Reviewed against the internal H&S director's batch findings; no change to this document.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.