

# SAFETY FLASH



## *Using Silica Controls Effectively*

Haselden Construction has a laminated trifold chart which identifies activities that generate respirable silica. From the chart, specific PPE, tools, engineering controls, and respirators can be identified. The chart conforms to OSHA Table 1 of the silica standard, and must be strictly followed. There are general requirements that must be met as well as the specifics shown on the chart.



**Heavy Equipment** For machine demolition, concrete or asphalt recycling, and excavation *even when the soil does not contain silica*, water must be applied to minimize visible dust. If watering is not used as a method of dust control, the operator must be in an enclosed cab or booth and surrounding workers must wear respirators under a respiratory protection program.

The enclosed cab or booth must:

- Be maintained free from settled dust;
- Have door seals, gaskets and closing mechanisms that work properly and are in good condition;
- Be under positive pressure maintained through continuous delivery of fresh air;
- Have intake air that is filtered through a filter that is 95% efficient (MERV-16 or better); and
- Have heating and cooling capabilities

## *Multiple Activities with Respirators*

When more than one activity is performed by an employee and the **combined duration is more than four hours**, wear respiratory protection for each activity as required for more than four hour's use.

If the **combined duration of all activities is less than four hours**; wear respiratory protection for each activity as required for less than four hour's use.

## **When Using the Chart!**

For tasks performed indoors or in enclosed areas, **provide a means of exhaust to minimize visible airborne dust. To OSHA, indoors means a box with 4 out of 6 sides intact.**

For tasks performed using wet methods, apply water at flow rates sufficient to **minimize visible dust.**