## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## **CONSTRUCTION SAFETY, ABATEMENT AND REMEDIATION**

## DANGERS OF SILICA DUST



## **Getting to the nitty-gritty of grit**

- Silica dust is a known hazard resulting from grinding or cutting concrete or masonry
- Due to the abrasive nature of the micro-particles, silica dust is a hazard not only to heath and safety, but also to mechanical equipment
- Airborne dust can enter respiratory pathways and cause permanent damage to the lungs
- When workers are cutting concrete, means of dust control must be employed by using wet-cutting, HEPA vacuums or a combination of both
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is to be worn at all times when cutting materials

- If work is being done on campus, bystanders should avoid the area
- Contact EHS with any concerns related to silica dust and associated safety measures on campus



A worker wet-cutting concrete to reduce silica dust presence



**Administrative Operations** 

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