



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC/NIOSH is the federal agency that evaluates work-related exposures and health effects and makes recommendations to address occupational safety and health concerns.

NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Information Sheet

What is the HHE Program?

The HHE program responds to requests from employers, unions, and employees to evaluate concerns about possible work-related hazards in the environment. More information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/default.html>.

Why is the HHE Program reaching out to the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association (CSDA) and its members?

The NIOSH HHE program is interested in evaluating employee exposures to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) in a variety of work environments throughout the country. CSDA members may have workplaces where employees have potential work-related RCS exposures.

What potential occupational exposures are the HHE program interested in evaluating?

The HHE program is interested in potential exposures of employees to RCS during a variety of tasks including: 1) walk-behind saws with commercially-available dust collection systems; 2) wire saws with the use of water-delivery systems; 3) “soft cut” saws with the use of dust collection systems; and 4) spreading shake on poured concrete floors.

When will the HHE program be at my worksite?

If companies choose to participate by requesting an evaluation we will work around their workplace schedules to determine the best time for us to visit.

What will the HHE program do?

We will 1) measure employee’s exposures to RCS in the air using personal air samplers, 2) evaluate the controls (such as engineering controls and personal protective equipment) being used, and 3) record observations about work practices that may affect exposure levels. We will provide you with recommendations to improve the health and safety issues related to possible RCS exposure among employees at your company.

If my employees participate, what would it involve?

We will ask some employees to wear personal air samplers while they work. The samplers should not get in the way of your work. If an employee wears a sampler and wants the results, we will send a letter to that employee with their *individual* results. Participation is voluntary.

Why is participation important?

When we do an evaluation at a specific workplace, we hope that *all* eligible employees participate in the evaluation. Full participation will help us best learn about RCS exposures at these workplaces. It is important to collect real world data to understand this. The HHE program will use this information to recommend ways to improve the work environment, specifically related to potential RCS exposure.

How will privacy be protected?

We will protect personal information under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Freedom of Information Act. Only de-identified or group level results will appear in our reports; no individual will be identified.

Who should I contact if I am interested in participating or have more questions?

Dr. Michael Grant Office: 513-841-4441, email: mgrant@cdc.gov
Dr. Alan Echt Office: 513-841-4111 email: ASE0@cdc.gov