

Think **SAFE** Be **SAFE**

Tomkins' March 2017 Safety Month Focus is

Construction Dust

Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)

RCS dust is easily inhaled deep into the lungs.

A hazard often overlooked, **Construction Dust** must be managed properly.

Construction dust is generated from a variety of construction activities such as:

- Concrete grinding or scabbling
- Brick, concrete or stone cutting, especially using dry methods
- Sanding and grinding
- Demolition and excavation
- Paving and surfacing

Activities like dry cutting of bricks and concrete with diamond tipped blades can produce very high levels of RCS dust.



Win a \$100 Bunnings Voucher!

Each month we will announce a Think **SAFE** Be **SAFE** winner with a **\$100 Bunnings Voucher** up for grabs.

The winner will be voted in for achieving best practices in the month's safety focus, by others on your work site.

The winner will be announced at the Site BBQ at the end of the month.

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Health effects of RCS

Inhaling RCS can lead to silicosis.

Silicosis is a serious and irreversible lung disease that causes permanent disablement and early death, and it is made worse by smoking.

Silicosis usually follows exposure to RCS over many years, but extremely high exposures across the short-term can cause it to develop rapidly.

It is important to...

- **recognise** exposure to RCS harms your body
- **know** the regulatory requirements for working with RCS
- **use** the best controls available to prevent or reduce exposure
- **protect** your own life and those around you.



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WHICH MASK DO YOU PREFER?

CONSTRUCTION DUST KILLS

Construction dust kills

As part of controlling exposure, all workers should wear **Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)** for all activities that create construction dust.

Any activities that create construction dust **must** have controls to reduce or eliminate it. Control methods could include: on-tool extraction, water suppression, and isolation.

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