

NIOSH ALERT

Preventing Silicosis and Deaths in Rock Drillers

WARNING!

Exposure to crystalline (free) silica during rock drilling can cause serious or fatal respiratory disease.

Take the following steps to protect yourself from crystalline silica exposure:

- Be aware of the health effects of crystalline silica dust listed in *NIOSH Alert: Request for Assistance in Preventing Silicosis and Deaths in Rock Drillers* (see ordering information on back of sheet).
- Participate in any medical examinations, air monitoring, or training programs offered by your employer.
- Use engineering controls such as local exhaust ventilation, wet drilling, dust suppression skirts, and enclosed drilling rig cabs with positive-pressure air-conditioning.
- Use the respiratory protection recommended in *NIOSH Alert: Request for Assistance in Preventing Silicosis and Deaths in Rock Drillers* (see ordering information on back of sheet).
- Change into washable or disposable work clothes at the worksite.

- Do not eat, drink, or use tobacco products in the drilling area.
- Wash your hands and face before eating, drinking, or smoking outside the drilling area.
- Shower and change into clean clothes before leaving the worksite.



Rock driller working without respiratory protection on a mobile rig.

For additional information, see *NIOSH Alert: Request for Assistance in Preventing Silicosis and Deaths in Rock Drillers* [DHHS (NIOSH) 92-107], or call 1-800-35-NIOSH. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

**Publications Dissemination, DSDTT
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