

Issue 34 of 2020 – 22 July

## SAFework NSW ANNOUNCES SILICOSIS REDUCTION STRATEGY

Members are advised that from 1 July 2020, the NSW Government's [Silicosis Reduction Strategy](#) started. The strategy introduced the most comprehensive reforms in Australia to reduce the deadly lung disease, silicosis.

The reforms include:

- The Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) has been halved from 0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 0.05mg/m<sup>3</sup> (8-hour time weighted average).
- Uncontrolled cutting, grinding and drilling of manufactured stone is banned, with on-the-spot fines of up to \$3600.
- Silicosis is now a scheduled medical condition in NSW, with all medical practitioners required to notify NSW Health when they diagnose a case of silicosis.
- Penalties apply to businesses that fail to notify SafeWork NSW when they receive an adverse health monitoring report for a worker, including a diagnosis of silicosis. [Download the notification form.](#)

Members should note that SafeWork NSW Inspectors will revisit all manufactured stone workshops to verify compliance with the above.

Members can also visit SafeWork NSW's [Crystalline Silica webpage](#) for the latest information on how to stay safe from silica dust exposure, including links to [icare's Lung Screen Health Monitoring Service](#), video safety alerts, guidance material and translated resources.

SafeWork NSW invites you to view its **2020 silica webinar series**. There are three video recordings from our 2020 Silica Symposium, available to view on demand.

Watch **any two** of the following videos to be eligible for the small business rebate (terms and conditions apply):

1. Join SafeWork NSW's State Inspector and Occupational Hygienist, Michael Weller, for a 20 minute session which focuses on controlling silica dust through the hierarchy of controls.

[Register to watch the session on demand.](#)

2. Join 3M's Occupational Hygienist, Mark Reggers, for a 20 minute session which focuses on respiratory protection when working with silica.

[Register to watch the session on demand.](#)

3. Join Paul Thurloe, from Heritage Stone Works, as he takes you through their journey to achieve best practice when working with silica.

[Register to watch the session on demand.](#)

Members will be invited to complete the survey at the end of each webinar.

To be eligible for the [Small Business Rebate](#) collect your certificate to use as evidence of your webinar attendance. A \$500 rebate is available to eligible small businesses and sole traders in NSW who buy and install equipment that makes their workplace safer.

Visit SafeWork NSW's [Translated Resources Hub](#) for in-language guidance materials on silica and other Workplace Health and Safety Issues.

If you have any questions, please contact [chemicals@safework.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chemicals@safework.nsw.gov.au)