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## Press Release

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### **Exposure to Silica Training** *Safety workshop to be held in Anchorage*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska— The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development will hold a free safety training in Anchorage on silica exposure. Roughly 2.3 million workers are exposed to crystalline silica in their workplaces, including 2 million construction workers who drill, cut, crush, or grind silica-containing materials such as concrete and stone, and 300,000 workers in general industry operations such as brick manufacturing, foundries, and hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking.

Crystalline silica is an industrial material found in the earth's crust. Silica dust, found in a wide variety of workplaces, is hazardous when small particles are inhaled. Occupational exposure occurs when cutting, sawing, drilling, and crushing of concrete, brick, ceramic tiles, rock, and stone products. These dust particles can penetrate deep into the lungs causing disabling and sometimes fatal lung diseases, lung cancer, and kidney disease.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a final rule to curb lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease in America's workers by limiting their exposure to crystalline silica. The rule is comprised of two standards: Construction and General Industry.

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training (AKOSH) has partnered with Associated General Contractors to sponsor a free Lunch and Learn Silica Training that will cover following topics:

- Basics of Silica
- Exposure
- OSHA rules and definition
- Equipment usage
- PPE requirements

**Date:** Tuesday, August 8, 2017  
**Location:** Associated General Contractors of Alaska, 8005 Schoon Street, Anchorage  
**Times:** 11:45am—1:15pm

**Cost:** Free to public  
**Conditions:** Lunch provided, registration required.

The workshops are free, however, space is limited and registration is required. For reservations, contact Elaine Banda, Training Coordination, at 907-269-4951 or email at [Elaine.Banda@alaska.gov](mailto:Elaine.Banda@alaska.gov).

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