SAFE OVER SUMMER
Asbestos & Silica

Asbestos and silica are invisible killers. Both release microscopic fibres or dust that can scar lungs and cause lifelong illness. You can’t see or smell the danger — exposure builds silently over time. Control starts before work begins. Single exposure can be life changing.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot

- Disturbing asbestos-containing materials during drilling, cutting or demolition
- Generating silica dust from concrete, brick, or stone
- Dry sweeping or using compressed air for clean-up
- Using incorrect PPE or poor fit on respirators
- Taking dusty clothing or PPE home and exposing others
- Poor ventilation or containment during dusty work

Discuss / Share:
Where on your site could asbestos or silica be present? How do you check whether materials are safe before starting work?

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Critical Controls

- Identify if asbestos or silica is present before starting — check registers and work permits
- Use water suppression or on-tool dust extraction to stop dust at the source
- Never dry sweep — use H-class vacuums or wet clean-up only
- Wear the right respirator (fit-tested and sealed properly)
- Keep contaminated clothing on site — never take dusty gear home
- Barricade and sign dusty areas; restrict access to essential workers
- Decontaminate tools, PPE, and work zones after completion
- For asbestos — follow approved control plans, monitoring, and waste procedures only under licensed supervision

Discuss / Share:
What steps do you take to ensure dust doesn’t spread beyond your work zone?