

**University of Delaware**  
**Environmental Health and Safety Protocol**

**Section:** Construction

**Protocol Name:** Respirable Silica Dust

**Origination Date:** May 2019

**Revisions:**

**Protocol Number:** C-07

**I. SCOPE OF PROTOCOL**

This protocol addresses controlling exposure to respirable silica dust and applies to all university departments, faculty, staff and students.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

A. Crystalline silica

1. Silicon dioxide that assumes a regular crystalline pattern at the molecular level. Quartz is the most common form of crystalline silica. It is a naturally occurring component in earth soils, sand, granite and many other minerals resulting in many building materials containing silica.

B. Respirable silica dust

1. Airborne crystalline silica that is capable of being inhaled and deposited in one's lungs.

**III. PROTOCOL STATEMENT**

The University shall develop and maintain a written respirable silica dust program to minimize the exposure to University employees, students and visitors to respirable silica dust.

**IV. PROTOCOL STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

A. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1053 "Respirable crystalline silica"

B. University of Delaware Respirable Crystalline Silica Dust Program -June 2018

Training

- A. The University shall provide training to ensure that employees who may generate or encounter silica dust are aware of and follow the respirable silica dust program.

For more information regarding this policy, contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety 302-831-8475.