

# CANCER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

## THE FACTS:



Statistics source: Safe Work Australia



Australian estimates suggest occupational exposures contribute to around 5,000 cancer diagnoses and more than 1,500 deaths each year.








Construction workers are among the occupations at highest risk of exposure to carcinogens such as silica, asbestos and diesel exhaust.

A carcinogen is a substance that can cause cancer. In Australia, carcinogens are recognised as hazardous workplace exposures.



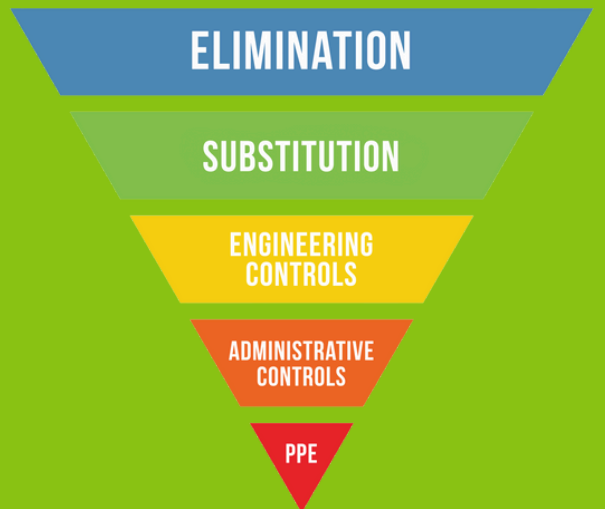
Did You Know?

## COMMON CARCINOGENS:

-  Asbestos Fibres
-  Welding Fume
-  Silica Dust
-  UV Radiation
-  Paint Vapours
-  Chemical Exposure
-  Lead & Wood Dust
-  Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions

## PROTECTING YOURSELF & OTHERS:

If a hazard can't be removed from site and the process can't be changed, suitable engineering controls must be used, such as ventilation or extraction. PPE and respirators can provide extra protection, but should not be the only control. Australian WHS laws require exposure to carcinogens and hazardous substances to be minimised as far as reasonably practicable.



HEPA Filtration can help protect against silica & wood dust.



Diesel Engine Exhaust Filters can help protect against DEEs.



Local Exhaust Ventilation can extract solvent vapours & filter welding fume.

**"BUT MY LUNGS WORK FINE."**

*"Occupational cancers are caused by past exposures and often there can be a period of many decades between exposure to a carcinogen and subsequent disease incidence."*

Safe Work Australia.