

AFOEM Annual Training Meeting 2026

Worksite Visit Program

CONUNDRUM QUARRIES

Pre-Visit Scenario | Registrar Copy

Site	Conundrum Quarries – Epping
Focus	Silicosis
Required PPE	Steel-cap safety footwear; safety glasses; long-sleeved clothing; hearing protection & high-visibility vest (available at Conundrum)

Background

Conundrum Quarries is a family run business. They operate several quarries, including one outside Stawell in western Victoria and the Northern Quarry in Epping on the outskirts of Melbourne. The company supplies a range of products including crushed stone, gravel, sand and aggregate and cater to commercial and residential projects. The Northern Quarry specialises in:

- Concrete and drainage aggregates
- Commercial grade crushed rock
- Class 1,2 and 3 crushed rock

The process is much the same at both quarries:

- The rock is drilled and blasted
- The resulting smaller pieces of rock are loaded into dump trucks
- it is then taken to the crushing plant on site
- The crushed rock is then put through screens to grade the correct size
- it is then loaded into delivery trucks

Dust is an ever present hazard as the rock has a variable content of silica depending on which quarry it comes from.

Scenario

You have been contacted by the quarry management as they are concerned about their employees' dust exposure. It is many years since they have had a case of silicosis and they have various dust suppression controls in place. They also have a regular health monitoring programme for their employees.

SafeWork Australia has a recommended exposure standard of 0.05 mg/m³ for an eight hour time weighted average. This is currently the legal standard in all States and territories, including Victoria. However, because of recent accelerated silicosis cases associated with the use of manufactured stone, there is now a recommendation in Victoria to reduce the exposure standard to 0.02 mg/m³. This is not law, but it is strongly advised that it is adhered to. This is of concern to the quarry

