

Silica dust – one man’s story: video transcript

Glyn has worked as a stonemason for over 40 years, including on railways buildings

He has developed silicosis and hand arm vibrations as a result of his work

With correct workplace control measures in place, this needn’t happen to anyone else

This is Glyn’s story.

“My name is Glyn Jones,

I’m a stonemason,

I’ve been doing it for 43 years.

We literally worked the stone when we worked it we then went out and cut the stone on the building, the one that was defective.

Sandstone, limestone, granite, marble,

we worked them all.

Everybody knew about the dangers of dust but not to the same extent as you know today.

The first extent that you knew about dust is

my boss then went and put a massive searchlight

behind the piece you are working on,

when you looked at it with a naked eye it

literally looked like dust you get from cigarette smoke

when you put the searchlight behind it

it looked like somebody had lit a giant bonfire off

the dust from it was two thirds again what you weren’t seeing

and it was that dust that you were breathing in.

The first 20-30 years

a lot of it was based on ignorance

you were looked at thinking: you are only 20 years old, or 30 years old.

You are still young

What you don't realise is

just because you think you are invincible,

years later, you've inherited the very thing that you were trying to prevent

i.e., the dust is doing the damage.

It's like a cigarette when you first smoke

I'm going to live a long time,

it's not causing any effects.

Because they're young, when they are older,

just like with dust, you inherit the effects.