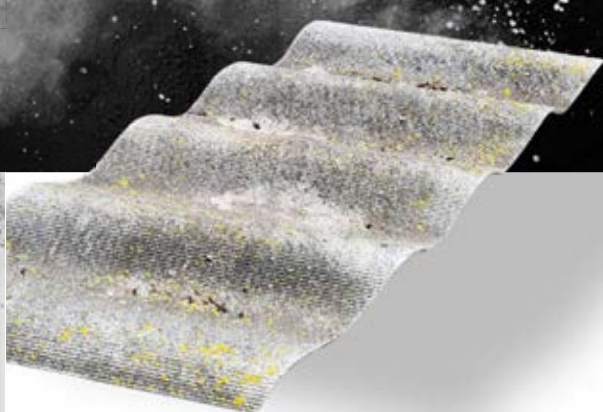# WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT **HAZARDS AND TOXIC MATERIALS** ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

+50%

of construction workers surveyed report exposure to toxic substances at least twice a week.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Toxic substances like **asbestos, lead, and chemicals** are common on construction sites. Improper handling can lead to long-term health problems, so it's essential to recognize these harmful hazards to protect workers.

Asbestos

Found in old insulation, flooring, roofing and cement. Inhaling its fibers can cause lung disease and increase cancer risk.

Mold & Biological Contaminants

Found in areas with damp conditions, particularly during renovations. Can cause respiratory illnesses and allergic reactions.

Lead

Found in old paints, pipes and some industrial coatings. Exposure can cause neurological and organ damage.

Silica Dust

Dust created when cutting, grinding or drilling concrete, stone and masonry. Inhalation can cause serious health issues like silicosis and lung cancer.

Solvents & Chemicals
(e.g., Paints, Adhesives, Cleaning Agents)

Used for finishing work and maintenance. Toxic fumes can lead to respiratory issues, skin burns and organ damage.

Heavy Metals
(e.g., Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium)

Present in electrical switches, batteries and coatings. These substances can lead to poisoning, cancer and neurological disorders.

Diesel Exhaust & Fumes

Produced by machinery, generators and vehicles. Long-term exposure can lead to lung diseases and cardiovascular problems.

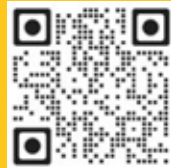## PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)

Found in electrical transformers, hydraulic equipment and old caulking, PCBs can cause cancer and harm the immune and reproductive systems.

SimScholars® curriculum, a one-to-one match with Cat® Simulators training exercises, offers essential safety training to help operators identify potential toxins and worksite hazards. By recognizing these risks, operators can help keep themselves and others safe on the jobsite.

CAT® SIMULATORS

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Sources: Tips for Safely Handling Hazardous Materials on Construction Sites (https://www.conexpoconagg.com)
2023 U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics - National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries