

# HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL?**

This project's goal is to prevent silicosis among the workers of Michigan companies that use silica sand as an abrasive media during the abrasive blasting process and who may perform abrasive blasting on substrates containing silica sand. The project included pre- and post- surveys of worksites, employee and employer health and safety training and other technical assistance.

This manual was designed to be used by companies performing abrasive blasting operations. The most important steps are first. Companies should start with Chapter 1, Silica Substitutes, and work through each chapter, one step at a time.

## **HOW IS THE MANUAL ORGANIZED?**

This manual is organized to make it easy for you to use. It is broken down into chapters which address different areas related to the prevention of silicosis.

It is recommended that as you work through the elements of this manual, you keep track of your progress. Keep these "Progress Reports" for your records. They will provide a way to record your achievements. If MIOSHA (Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the State OSHA plan) investigates your company, the Progress Reports you have kept can prove that you have taken steps in good faith to comply with the existing standards and regulations. Progress Reports can also document that you have pursued health and safety programs designed to protect you and your coworkers.

Many state, local, public and nonprofit agencies can help you create a safe and healthy workplace. They are listed throughout the training manual.