Historic Building Conservation:
Safety Protocol Onsite and in the Lab

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Risks Unique to Historic Building/Architectural Conservation

Increased focus on safety in adjacent fields

Efforts to increase safety awareness in graduate school programs
ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION: GENERAL HAZARDS
Architectural Conservation

- Art Conservation
- Building Stabilization
- Design solutions
- Traditional Building Methods
Architectural and Art Conservation

- Similar Materials
- Similar Methodologies
- Similar Risks
Architectural Conservation

- Toxic Artist Materials
- Toxic Cleaning Supplies
- Workplace Injury
- Environmental Hazards
Architectural Conservation

Distinguishing Factors

- Jobsite Conditions
- Heights
- Building Materials
- Structural Instabilities
INCREASED FOCUS ON SAFETY IN ADJACENT FIELDS
OSHA’s Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for General Industry and Maritime 2018

- Enforcement began June 23rd 2018
- Adopted by the BAC
- Permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 50 µg/m³, averaged over an 8-hour day
Art Conservation

- AIC Heath and Safety Committee
- Smithsonian Institution Safety Manual
- CDC’s NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards
- COOL Health & Safety Bibliographic Resources and Resource Guides
INSTITUTIONALIZING
HEALTH & SAFETY
University Safety Awareness Program

University of Pennsylvania Graduate Program in Historic Preservation

Developed by:

- Faculty
- EHRS
- Professionals in the field
University Safety Awareness Program

Program Includes:

- Safety integration into HSPV courses for all students
- Additional Lab safety for those on Conservation track
- OSHA 10 training for all students
- Respirator fit tests available
- Health and Safety Resource Guide
University Safety Awareness Program

Goals:

- To make aware all students and faculty of the potential hazards working in the field.
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- To inform students of what kind of health and safety protocol they should advocate for in a professional setting.
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- To make aware all students and faculty of the potential hazards working in the field.
- To inform students of what kind of health and safety protocol they should advocate for in a professional setting.
- To provide conservation students with relevant safety training including in the lab.