

## CONTROL OF DUST AND FUMES

### Control of Dust and Fumes

**Overview** This talk will cover some sources and dangers from dust and fumes, and examples of precautions that can be taken.

### Some sources of harmful dust and fumes

- 1 Cutting, sanding and grinding of some materials will create harmful dust.
- 2 Welding and gas cutting of metals can create harmful fumes.
- 3 Heating metals such as lead will create harmful fumes.
- 4 Work with old lead can expose you to lead oxide dust (white, powdery deposits) which is also harmful
- 5 Burning off old lead-based paints can also create harmful fumes.
- 6 Stripping out or other work involving fibrous insulation (such as asbestos or fibreglass insulation) can release harmful dust into the air.

### Some health risks from breathing in dust or fumes

1. Silica dust from cutting or scabbling concrete can cause lung disease.
- 2 Dust from cutting or sanding hardwood can cause nasal cancer.
- 3 Asbestos dust can cause cancer of the lungs or lining of the chest cavity.
- 4 Welding fumes can result in 'metal fume fever' which has flu like symptoms.
- 5 Breathing in the fumes from solvents and paint can lead to nausea, drowsiness, headaches and, eventually unconsciousness and death in extreme cases.
- 6 Investigations are continuing into possible harmful effects of breathing in dust from synthetic insulation materials such as fibreglass matting.

### Precautions

- 1 Where it is possible, the job should be planned to eliminate harmful dust and fumes.
  - 2 If elimination is not possible, harmful dust and fumes must be controlled so that they are not breathed in by anyone.
  - 3 Some tools and plant are fitted with dust extraction and collection devices – if these are available, use them.
  - 4 If your employer has provided portable extraction equipment, use it.
  - 5 It may be necessary for you to wear RPE to protect yourself from the effects of dust or fumes – make sure you know how to use it properly.
  - 6 Consider the effects that your work may be having on other people.
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Do you have any questions for me?

**NOTE:** Failure to comply with safety instructions and RAMS and COSHH Assessments may result in disciplinary actions

Serial	Name	Date of Toolbox Talk	Signature	Site

*By signing this register you are confirming that you attended the toolbox talk and understand the requirements of controlling dust and fumes in the workplace*

