

Control of Dust and Fumes

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Exposure to dust and fumes must be prevented or controlled.

Why: Breathing in dust or fumes can lead to long term health problems.

Outline: 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

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

Q: What work do you carry out that creates harmful dust or fumes?

Some Health Risks From Breathing In Dust Or Fumes

- Silica dust from cutting or scabbling concrete can cause lung disease.
- Dust from cutting or sanding hardwood can cause nasal cancer.
- Asbestos dust can cause cancer of the lungs or lining of the chest cavity.
- Welding fumes can result in 'metal fume fever', which has flu like symptoms.

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- Breathing in the fumes from solvents and paint can lead to nausea, drowsiness, headaches and eventually unconsciousness and death in extreme cases.
- Investigations are continuing into possible harmful effects of breathing in dust from synthetic insulation materials such as fibreglass matting.

Precautions

- Where it is possible, the job should be planned to eliminate harmful dust and fumes.
- If elimination is not possible, harmful dust and fumes must be controlled so that they are not breathed in by anyone.
- Some tools and plant are fitted with dust extraction and collection devices – if these are available, use them.
- If your employer has provided portable extraction equipment, use it.
- 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.
- Consider the effects that your work may be having on other people.

Q: What types of RPE are suitable for use with hazardous dust and fumes?

Q: How do you inform others that you will be creating harmful dust or fumes?

Do you have any questions for me?

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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