

# Dust

## Overview

This document covers 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) Work with old lead can expose you to lead oxide dust (white, powdery deposits) which is also harmful.
- 4) Burning off old lead-based paints or heating lead can create harmful fumes.
- 5) Stripping out of other work involving fibrous insulation (such as asbestos or fiberglass insulation can release harmful dust into the air).

### Health risks from breathing in dust or fumes

- 1) Silica dust from cutting or scabbling concrete or cutting bricks or stone can cause lung disease (for example, asthma).
- 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 fiberglass matting) – regard it as hazardous.

### 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 they are not breathed in.
- 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 respiratory protective equipment (RPE) to protect yourself from the effects of dusts or fumes. Make sure you know how to use it properly.
- 6) Consider the effects that your work may have on other people.

### Health and safety

Always make sure you wear (respiratory protective equipment (RPE) to protect yourself, make sure you try and eliminate harmful dusts and fumes before work commences it's not always



## Summary

## TOOL BOX TALK RECORD

[illegible]



# Dust

Feedback arising from Talk



Trinity  
Safety