

SHE Toolbox Talk – Dust and Air Quality

WHAT?

Dust, emissions and odours can annoy neighbours (e.g. schools, residents and businesses) and may cause health risks at very high concentrations.

**WHY?**

- **Avoid nuisance to neighbours:** Dust can settle on neighbours' properties and give rise to local dispute. Poorly controlled emissions and odours from plant or works may give rise to valid complaints.
- **Avoid programme delays:** The Local Authority has the power to stop works if dust is causing a nuisance. Emission of dark smoke from plant and fires is illegal.
- **Avoid health problems:** Dust may cause eye irritation or make asthma worse.
- **Avoid impact on ecology:** Dust can damage the ecology of watercourses and affect plant growth, including crops.

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep surfaces swept and damp down with water at regular intervals ✓ Minimise drop heights into haulage vehicles and into conveyors ✓ Ensure cutting and grinding operations are adequately shielded or wetted ✓ Sheet lorries carrying dry materials off site ✓ Keep to site speed limits to minimise dust ✓ Use of wheel wash, for appropriate vehicles, if one is provided on site ✓ Store fine, dry materials within buildings or provide adequate protection from the wind ✓ Store bulk cement and bentonite in silos ✓ Position silos and stockpiles away from residential areas or watercourses ✓ Clean up or damp down any spillage of dry dusty materials ✓ Notify your Line Manager if work activities are causing poor air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ DON'T burn materials on site without approval from your Project Manager. Permission is required first from the Environment Agency / Natural Resources Wales / Scottish Environment Protection Agency ✗ DON'T use poorly maintained plant. Black smoke may give rise to poor health and can cause a nuisance ✗ DON'T leave plant running if not in use ✗ DON'T ignore sources of poor air quality, notify your line manager ✗ DON'T ignore complaints.

