Raising Awareness of Dangers at Work - Breathing

John Cairns
Chairman
So where do Safety Groups fit in?

- 70 plus Groups in UK – National Coverage
  Providing low cost, local, entry level advice and briefing
- Partnership working with HSE, ILEVE, RoSPA, IOSH, BSC, IIRSM, NEBOSH etc.
- Raising awareness/spreading good practice
- Facilitating events & cascading information to SME’s
- Providing a friendly informal point of contact for SME’s & others via the UK network of safety groups and the opportunity to attend local safety group meetings.
Partnership Working

Healthy Working Lives

HSE

RoSPA

S.C.O.S.

Safety Groups UK

Promoting safety & health nationwide
Health Risks at work – Do you know yours?
www.healthrisksatwork.com
The occupational health burden in Britain today

- 130 + notifiable fatalities
- 13,000 health related deaths, mainly respiratory disease & cancer – 500,000 new cases each year.
- 1.1 million injuries
- 1.2 million cases of work related ill health
- 4000 Occupational COPD deaths per annum
Health Risks at Work
5 main topics

- Risks to Skin
- **Risks to Breathing**
- Risks to Hearing & Touch
- Risks to Muscles, Bones & Joints
- Risks to Wellbeing

- Multi – language DVD to raise awareness of Occupational Health Issues.
Health risks: some facts
Airborne contaminants cause a range of occupational diseases

- Up to 1500 people contract Occupational Asthma (OA) each year in the UK
- Exposure to fumes, chemicals and dusts account for around 4000 deaths each year
- 36,000 workers reported breathing and lung problems at work
Occupational Cancer in Great Britain

Approx :-

• more than 6,000 for men
• more than 1,000 for women

By trade –

Construction .......... 500

Welding ................. 150
Health Risks at Work

Do you know yours?

Hazardous substances include:
- Chemical products used or produced at work (e.g., adhesives, cleaning agents)
- Substances generated by work (e.g., soldering or welding home, wood dust)
- Natural substances (e.g., grain, flour and enzymes dusts)
- Biological agents (e.g., fungus, bacteria, virus)

Hazardous substances can be present in your workplace as:
- Dust, powder or paste (e.g., wood, cement, metal, flour, grain, rubber, stone dust)
- Spray or mist (e.g., paint and epoxy spray, acid mist)
- Fume (e.g., welding, hot rubber, soldering, galvanising fumes)
- Liquid (e.g., degrading solvent, cleaning chemicals)
- Vapour (e.g., solvent vapour released from adhesives, paints, tiles)
- Gas (e.g., chlorine, carbon monoxide)

Employees can be exposed to hazardous substances by:
- Breathing in
- Skin contact
- Swallowing
- Eye contact

Health effects of exposure to hazardous substances can include:
- Lung diseases (e.g., asthma, airways obstruction, bronchitis, lung cancers)
- Skin diseases (e.g., dermatitis, skin cancers, burns)
- Diseases of other organs (e.g., cancer in other parts of the body, nervous system diseases and disorders of reproductive organs)
- Damage to eyes

www.healthrisksatwork.com

Safety Groups UK
PROMOTING SAFETY & HEALTH NATIONWIDE
HSE Local Exhaust Ventilation

Supported by:

- CIBSE
- SAFed
- SHAPA
- HEVAC
- IOSH
- SNITE
- FET
- HVCA
Controlling the risk at Source.

SGUK Supports the ILEVE Competency Card for LEV Engineers
H&S Industry Trends

Safety Culture / Behavioural Safety:
Eliminating the perception that H&S is exclusively the domain of the health and safety professional. Encouraging worker involvement to change mindsets.

Focus on Health Risks and Long Latency:
Major concern around the new health cases rather than safety, highlighted in the new IOSH No Time To Lose campaign.
Safety Groups UK is happy to support the IOSH campaign on occupational cancer “No Time to Lose”

For the last few years, the focus of SGUK has been to raise awareness of occupational health issues, particularly for SMEs and long latency diseases such as cancer.

It’s vital to get the message out about this significant occupational health issue – not only for those individuals and families directly affected, but also from the perspective of business, and the national economy as a whole.
Safety Groups UK (SGUK) is pleased to support the BOHS Breathe Freely campaign to help raise awareness and reduce lung disease among construction workers.

We will also promote the Breathe Freely message as we continue to deliver the overall focus on "Risks to breathing" as part of Health Risks at Work campaign in particular as we highlight this major problem area within the Construction Dust Partnership.

We wish the BOHS Breathe Freely campaign every success in helping to bring about effective exposure control from inhalation hazards causing respiratory disease in the construction industry and fully support the message that "good occupational hygiene is good for business."
Partnership working
Clean Air? - Take Care!

Helping you to correctly select and use respirators

With support from...
Damage to your worker’s lungs and other parts of their bodies can seriously affect their health...it can also affect your business!
Don’t risk their health & your business...

Many workers...

- Are not provided with correctly selected respirators!
- Are not provided with correctly maintained respirators
- Do not wear their respirators properly

This can lead to exposure to hazardous substances affecting their health

...and putting your business at risk!
Respiratory disease
Common health problems caused by breathing in hazardous substances…

Cancers
Asthma
COPD (Airway obstructive diseases)
Allergies & sensitisation
Silicosis
Other diseases
Breathing in hazardous substances can also cause diseases elsewhere in the body...

Nervous system disorders
Heart disease
Bladder cancer
Damage to reproductive system

Don’t risk their long term health!
Construction Dust Partnership
Dust is defined by its size

- **Inhalable dust**
  - Larger sized dust that you can generally see with the naked eye
  - This gets trapped in the upper sections of your lung

- **Respirable dust**
  - Smaller sized dust that can be invisible to the naked eye
  - This gets trapped in the lower sections of your lung

**Inhalable Dust**

**Respirable Dust**
Introducing the SafeTea Campaign
SafeTea Campaign – ticks all the boxes

- Simple to use, valuable tool for H&S personnel
- Creates action plan and engages workforce
- Promotes Safety Groups Network
- Links to HR@W
- Innovative communication
- Alignment with industry trends
- Simple and cost-effective to run

SafeTea Month – June
The LOcHER Project
SGUK & IIRSM, BSiF, ILEVE, IBIS
Thank you for your attention.

Questions?