



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 486: Dust Control (Job Site)

Introduction: Dust is solid material which is light enough to be suspended in the air, the largest of which may be visible. Smaller dust particles that you cannot see are likely to be more harmful to your health. Particles of dust, dirt, or other substances may be drawn into a building from the outside. Dust can be produced by activities like cutting wood, drywall, concrete, or operating heavy equipment. Inhalation of dust may cause shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, wheezing, coughing, sneezing, and watery eyes. Symptoms worsen with repeated exposure. Occupational lung diseases often times caused by breathing impure air are silicosis, asbestosis, and berylliosis. Following are safety guidelines for protecting yourself from harmful dusts:

Outside dust control: **Employers** must ensure that there is an ongoing program for monitoring the concentration of respirable dust to which workers are exposed. **Employers** must protect employees from exposure to respiratory hazards at the jobsite by identifying and controlling the hazards.

- **Employers** must ensure that there is a water supply designed to suppress airborne dust. *Never* use a blower to move dusty debris.
- **Where** an area is being cut and cleared, the bare dirt must be watered down after the open area has become exposed.
- **Employers** must ensure that a dirt roadway used by rubber-tired vehicles is treated or wetted to minimize the creation of airborne dust.
- **Where** earth-moving vehicles raise dust into the air, a water truck must follow behind the equipment, spraying the ground with water.
- **All** graders, bulldozers, dump trucks, and other heavy equipment operators must wear dust masks when the cab is not totally enclosed.
- **All** ground workers, who are working where grading and removal of ground soil operations take place, must wear dust masks.
- **Operations may** need to be suspended when the wind reaches a point where there is no method of keeping harmful dusts on the ground.
- **Dust controls** for heavy equipment can include: water or chemical dust retardants, rumble grates that trucks drive across to shake off the dust, pads to cleanse dust from the tires, and routing of all vehicles through the dust control measures.



Indoor dust: **Employers** must install dust collection devices on exhaust fans when conditions warrant.

- **A vacuum** with a high-efficiency particle air (HEPA) filter can be used to remove dust from work areas.
- **Air monitoring** must be performed to determine exposures, evaluate engineering controls, evaluate work practices, and select respiratory protection. Exposure measurements should be made in the employee's actual breathing zone. Any appropriate combination of long-term, or short-term respirable samples is acceptable.
- **Total** sampling time must be at least 7 hours when conditions are hazardous. Monitoring must be repeated daily when conditions warrant.



Housekeeping: **Remove** dust on overhead ledges, on floors, and equipment before it becomes airborne due to traffic, vibration, and random air current.

- **Never** dry sweep or use compressed air for clean up of dust that may contain toxic materials.
- **Use** wet methods or vacuums with a HEPA filter for clean up. Current MSDS on all material is required.
- **A gentle** wash down of surfaces is preferable. Use disinfectants to attack mold.
- **Practice** good personal hygiene to avoid unnecessary exposure. Hand-washing facilities should be conveniently located throughout a worksite.
- **Portable** eye wash stations and dust masks must be readily available.

Restricted areas: **Post warning signs** in areas where dust exposure already exists, or is possible.

- **Unauthorized** employees should not be allowed in restricted areas.

Provide medical examinations:

- **Employers** should provide medical examinations for employees who may have been exposed to harmful dust.
- **Medical exams** should include chest X-rays. Chest X-rays should be read by a specialist in dust diseases.
- **Develop** a plan for reducing exposures of employees whose X-rays show changes. This can be accomplished by removal from the jobs or tasks involving dust exposure, but in some cases it may be accomplished by the effective use of supplied air respirators.
- **All cases** of dust overexposure should be reported to state health departments and recorded on OSHA logs, as required.

Exhaust ventilation system: A system for removing dust from a space must be comprised of two or more of the following elements:

- Enclosure or hood
- Dust collecting equipment
- Discharge stack.
- Duct work
- Exhauster

Personal protective equipment: Wear an air purifying respirator, commonly referred to as a dust respirator, which removes most of the dust from the air passing through the device. Wear a dust mask when particulates are not life threatening. Wear additional personal protective equipment as required.

- **An air-supplied** respirator may be needed when the particulates are hazardous, or when the worker who is exposed has respiratory problems.

Conclusion: Road dust and vehicle exhaust combine to make hazardous air. Follow these safety guidelines to keep the air safe.

WARNING
DUST HAZARDS
DUST CAN CAUSE
RESPIRATORY
PROBLEMS



Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.