

Case study:

Raising Dust awareness: SHEQ team day on dust

Summary

Following on from our first campaign on dust in 2015, Keepmoat SHEQ teams (Regional Managers, Regional Advisors and Group SHEQ Team members) met to discuss health issues around dust in September 2016.

The day aimed to provide information on the HSE's current stance on dust and health issues, delivery of the HSE's slide pack and educating our SHEQ teams so they are best placed to advise and coach our site teams.

It included presentations from our suppliers (Bosh, Hilti, Alpha Solway, Makita) who gave information on a variety of topics.

This information has been used to review and update controls, raise staff and contractor awareness and facilitate active positive engagement in the workplace delivering improved dust control.

Problem statement

Anyone who breathes in construction dust should know the damage they can do to the lungs and airways. The main dust-related diseases affecting construction workers are:

- lung cancer;
- silicosis;
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD);
- asthma.

Most of these diseases take a long time to develop. Unfortunately, by the time it is noticed the total damage done may already be serious and life changing.

Even though Keepmoat workforce was aware of the risks associated with construction dust and the HSE focus on managing dust, there seemed a lack of awareness in managing dust at a subcontractor level.



Figure 1: Supplier presentations demonstrating technology solutions

Solution / what you did

In early 2015 Keepmoat launched a Construction Dust Campaign (coincided with the HSE campaign), highlighting what controls would be expected to manage construction dust in the workplace. The campaign has had a significant impact in raising awareness in management of dust that reached all the way to our subcontractors (a total of 2294 subcontractors contacted)

As part of our 2016 SHEQ team event we had presentations from our suppliers (Bosh, Hilti, Alpha Solway, Makita) who gave information on a variety of topics;

- The control of dust during cutting, coring and drilling concrete. This included options that avoid drilling, and then latest equipment/technology for control at source.
- Demonstration of Hilti tools and dust removal system solutions. Attendees were given the opportunity to use the tools to see first-hand how effective they were in controlling dust at source.
- Update/refresh on face fit testing. The differences between qualitative and quantitative testing, and common excuses of why people can't be face fit tested. Common failures of RPE and how it works.
- Information on the control of wood dust at source, when using woodworking tools. Demonstration of the latest Makita technologies and equipment; his included the common pitfalls and things to watch out for.
- Through our in-house GO visits (Guidance Observation) the SHEQ team used these to transfer dust control

information to their own teams and the Operations teams.

- Learning and sharing notes were provided, Tool Box Talks and monthly briefing sheets were also used by the SHEQ teams.
- We measure the success of this knowledge transfer through our monitoring System whereby each site receives a compliance visit at least once per quarter where the effectiveness of this campaign is assessed on how the site responds to the compliance questions associated within these sections and are expected to provide evidence.
- We can also measure the success through the reduction of near misses and incidents related to dust, capturing via our 'See it' Sort It, Report It' initiative This will be done via our annual statistics review.

Key challenges faced

- Even though Keepmoat workforce was aware of the risks associated with construction dust and the HSE focus on managing dust, there seemed a lack of awareness in managing dust at a subcontractor level. There was a need to change the culture associated with dust. Identifying the geology of drilling and building knowledge regarding which geologies generate higher levels of RCS.
- We took the opportunity to review our processes specifically our dust and asbestos processes against HSE and Industry Guidance and introduce it into Keepmoat.
- Our revised procedures and dust matrix has been communicated and reinforced at site level to both direct employees and sub contractors and a push on Face Fit testing where needed.



Figure 2: Update/ refresher on face fit testing

Outcomes and benefits

- Long term benefits include Employee health. As we know with dust and asbestos related diseases, we don't know about it for many years. By dealing with the

problem at source we help reduce the potential for this to occur.

- We have seen a significant process benefit come out of this campaign as we have re-written both our asbestos procedures and our process surrounding dust.
- We have seen increased engagement as a result of this campaign. For example GO visits are more interactive and contain learning and sharing, guidance, training and observations which has helped increase the awareness and control of dust.

Measures of success

- Currently, the expected outcome of this campaign will be to see dust better managed on site and this reflected in the scoring in the monitoring system.
- Longer term we expect to see a reduction in non-conformance and increased health benefits to the workforce.
- It has resulted in an increase in active positive engagement during the SHEQ Teams GO Visits which we see as a step towards continual improvement.

Lessons learnt

- The dust matrix is now considered a key business as usual document i.e. it is required to be carried out where dust is likely to be produced.
- The processes of which dust are part of is part of the Keepmoat Management System which is available on our intranet and therefore an integral part of Keepmoat.
- The SHEQ Team are skilled up and can deal with concerns on site as and when they come up.

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