Toolbox talks: nuisance

Dust and air quality

What?

- dust, odours and other emissions can annoy neighbours and may cause health risks at very high concentrations
- dust can damage vegetation and crops and affect on local wildlife and watercourses.

Why?

- **avoid environmental harm:** emission of dark smoke from plant, chimneys and fires is illegal
- **avoid environmental harm:** dust can damage the ecology of a watercourse and affect plant growth, including crops
- **avoid programme delays:** regulators have the power to stop works if dust or other emissions are causing a nuisance
- **reduce health hazard:** dust may cause eye irritation or make asthma worse and could be carcinogenic
- **reduce health hazard:** odours may cause nausea, dizziness or fainting
- **public relations:** dust can settle on neighbours' properties and cars etc, which may lead to local dispute



- **public relations:** poorly controlled emissions and odours from plant or works may lead to valid complaints.

Questions

1 What is the speed limit on this site?
2 What sources of dust are there on site?
3 What is the procedure for dealing with complaints?

Do

- ✓ keep surfaces swept and damp down with water at regular intervals during dry weather
- ✓ minimise drop heights into haulage vehicles and conveyors
- ✓ ensure cutting and grinding operations are adequately shielded or wetted
- ✓ sheet over lorries carrying dry materials to or from site
- ✓ keep to site speed limits to minimise dust generation
- ✓ use the wheelwash, 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
- ✓ make sure dust suppression systems are working and are effective on crushers and screeners
- ✓ notify a line manager if work activities are causing poor air quality.

Don't

- ✗ burn materials on site without approval from a line manager. Permission is required first from regulators
- ✗ use poorly maintained plant. Black smoke may give rise to poor health and can cause a nuisance
- ✗ leave plant and vehicles running if not in use
- ✗ ignore sources of dust and fumes on site, notify a line manager
- ✗ ignore complaints – respond politely and inform a line manager.

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