

# TOOLBOX TALK

No3

## DUST & AIR QUALITY

### WHAT?

Dust, emissions and odours can annoy neighbours and may cause health risks at 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. Emissions of dark smoke from plant and fires are illegal.
- ❑ **Avoid health problems:** Dust may cause eye irritation or make asthma worse
- ❑ **Avoid impact on ecology:** Dust can damage the ecology of a watercourse and affect plant growth, including crops.

### DOs

- ✓ Keep surfaces swept and damp down with water at regular intervals
- ✓ Minimise drop heights into haulage vehicles and onto conveyors
- ✓ Ensure cutting and grinding operations are adequately shielded or wetted
- ✓ DO sheet lorries carrying dry materials off site
- ✓ Use the wheel wash, for appropriate vehicles, if one is provided on site.
- ✓ DO store fine, dry materials within buildings or provide adequate protection from the wind.
- ✓ Store bulk cement and bentonite in silos
- ✓ DO 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

### DON'Ts

- \* DON'T burn materials on site without approval from your Project Manager. Permission is required first from the Environment 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

