What is Occupational Hygiene?
Multi-skilled discipline combining science and engineering to identify, assess, eliminate or control health hazards in the workplace.
Health Hazards?
Where Occupational Hygiene Fits In

Safety: Injury Prevention

Occupational Health

Employee Health and Safety Protection

Occupational Hygiene
Systematic Approach

Predict → Recognise → Evaluate → Control
British Occupational Hygiene Society
The Chartered Society For Worker Health Protection
An overview of BOHS

• Learned and professional society, founded 1953
• The voice of the occupational hygiene community in the UK
• Major international scientific society in occupational hygiene
• Over 1700 members in 57 countries
• Received the Royal Charter in 2012
a healthy working environment for everyone
**BOHS’ Activities**

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Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

Do you breathe freely?
Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

What’s needed?
Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

What does ‘good’ look like?

Evidence that OH is good for business

Who’s doing this well?

Centre of excellence for information

What’s needed?
Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

What’s needed?

- Management Standard
- Case Studies & Good Practice
- Good Business Case
- Information Hub
Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

BOHS

Media partners

Other professional bodies

HSE

Relevant charities

Politicians

Trade Unions

Construction companies

Construction clients

Trades associations

Commercial providers
Construction workers are at high risk of contracting lung disease from the work that they do. In 2015, approximately 3,500 will die from cancer caused by past exposures to asbestos, 500 more from silica dust, another 5,500 will be diagnosed with occupational cancer, and today alone – an unknown but significant number will breathe in the hazardous substances that will one day seriously affect their health or kill them.

To view, print or share the infographic below please click on the image below to download the pdf and print using Adobe Acrobat.
Building the Business Case for Prevention of Ill Health

Background

Breathe Freely is a BOHS initiative, aimed at reducing occupational suffering which causes significant debilitating ill-health and an estimated £4.3bn per year to the UK economy. Breathe Freely is about raising awareness both of the problem and what to do about it; we can protect workers’ health and prevent most of the ill-health caused by occupational factors. It is good for business as well as for the health of all involved.

Occupational hygiene is the preventative side of occupational health hazards in the workplace, understanding the real risk to health, and then controlling their exposures to them. It helps employees to understand their health risks and then improve working practices through suitable, inexpensive, effective control measures.

The building blocks for good business

Finance – the money to the bottom line.

Employee relations – support, consultation, communication and employees, and your employees will look after your business.

Social Responsibility – making a positive impact on society.

Reputation – a virtuous circle, linked to the other three building block terms. The reputation of a business is built on reliability, leadership.

The business case for occupational health and hygiene is strong. It can produce a significant return on investment, improve employee relations, demonstrate responsibility, and enhance a company’s reputation. But, it must be integrated with the organisation’s vision and goals. Here we corroborate the case for good business.

Building occupational hygiene into the business

Finance

The big picture: Every year, sickness absence due to occupational ill-health costs the UK an estimated £4.3bn. Of this, approximately £2.2bn is due to respiratory diseases, with a significant impact on the UK economy.

FAQs

Trade Fact Sheets

Case Studies

Worker Case Studies

Management Standard

Help from Occ. Hyg.
Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

Construction Managers Toolkit
Are BOHS right to focus on the worker health protection in the Construction Industry?

On to the bad news....
Construction Worker Health is a Big Issue
The Statistics In Context

Fatalities resulting from Accidents vs
Deaths from Occupational Disease vs
A few other statistics
Fatal injuries to workers in the UK (all sectors) - 2013/14:

133

Source: HSE
Approximate number of deaths each year due to occupational diseases:

13,000
Controlling Exposures to
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Percentage of UK occupational cancer
deaths current or former construction workers:

~50%
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Approximate number of deaths each year resulting from exposure to silica dust:

500

Source: HSE
Grandad’s Disease?

HSE estimates for potentially fatal occupational diseases:

- 13,500 new cases of occupational cancer
- 8,500 new cases of respiratory disease

Source: HSE
Approximate number of new cases of occupational cancer in construction each year:

5,500

Source: HSE
Grandad’s Disease?

Debilitating Occupational Diseases:

• 18,000 new cases of NIHL
• 35,000 new cases of occupational skin disease
• 10s of 1000s of hand-arm vibration disorders
• 184,000 new cases musculoskeletal disorders
• 244,000 new cases of work related stress

Source: HSE
Construction Sector:
Work related ill health:

71,000

Source: HSE
Occupational Deaths

99%

1%
Employers have the key role to play in minimising health risks at work.
H&S Focus of Most Organisations

• 90% accident prevention
• 10% worker health
  – Sickness absence management
  – Lifestyle and wellbeing
  – Stress management
  – Provision of PPE
So why the construction industry?
BOHS and its members have the knowledge and skills to help the Construction Industry find solutions.
So What Should I Do Now?

• Review the Business Case for Prevention
• Sign up as a supporter of Breathe Freely
• Come to the Breathe Freely event on 15th Sept.
• Download and read the trade fact sheets
• Adopt the Health in Industry Management Strategy
• Help the information hub to grow
Questions

Controlling Exposures to Prevent occupational lung disease in the construction industry

Rupert Balfry & Helen Pearson
t: 0131 516 3020
e: info@viridissafety.co.uk

Supporting

Viridis Safety

BOHS
The Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection

BREATHE FREELY

www.breathefreely.org.uk

www.bohs.org