

British Occupational Hygiene Society

Helping You Protect Worker Health

Rupert Balfry & Helen Pearson

Viridis
Safety



Supporting



The Chartered Society for
Worker Health Protection

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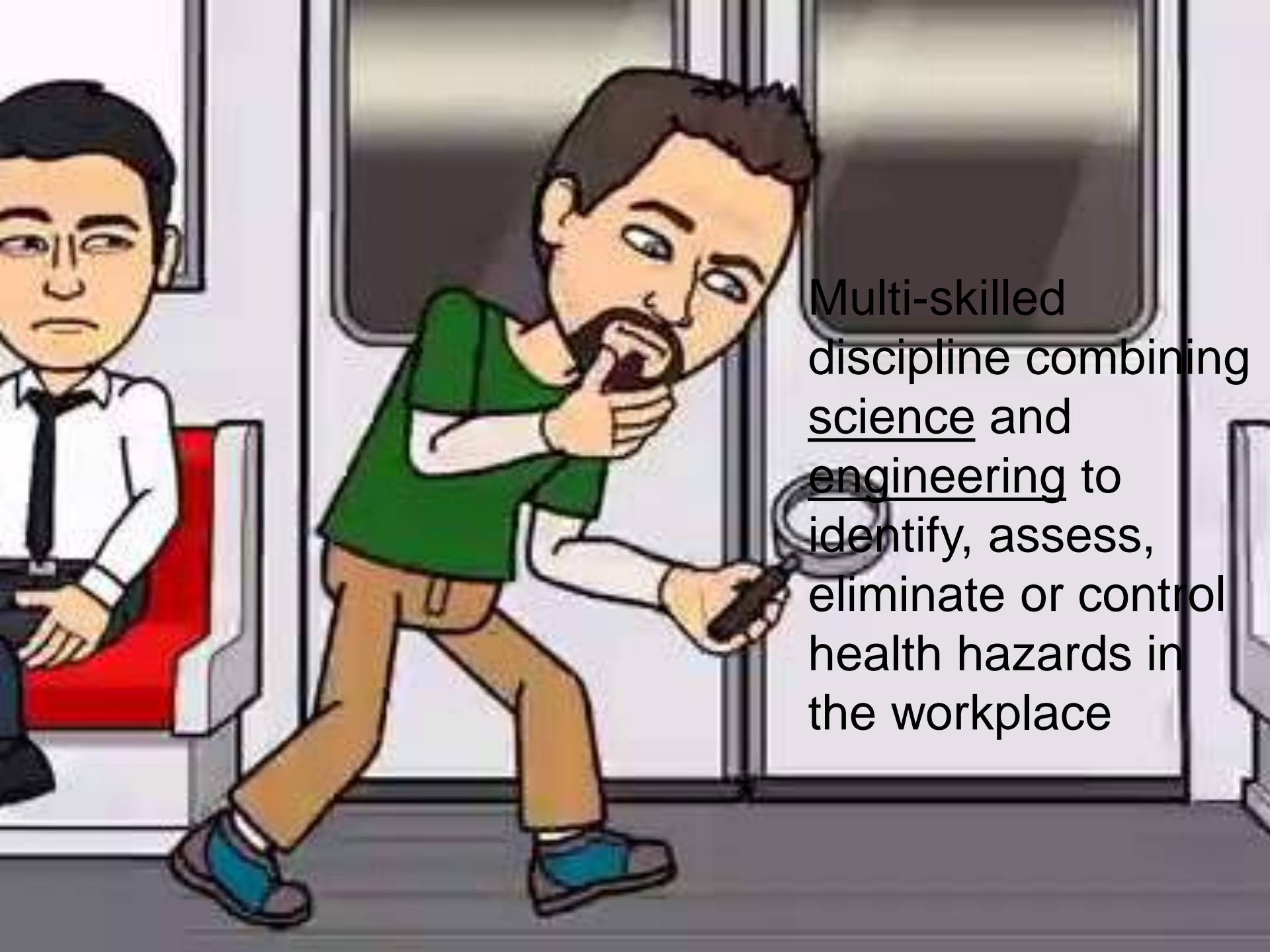
BREATHE FREELY



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Worker Health Protection



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





h of

H&S

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

Services for Occupational Hygienists

- Raising awareness of occupational hygiene
- Sharing best practice
- Organising conferences
- Supporting training providers
- Professional development pathways
- Publications

Supporting Industry

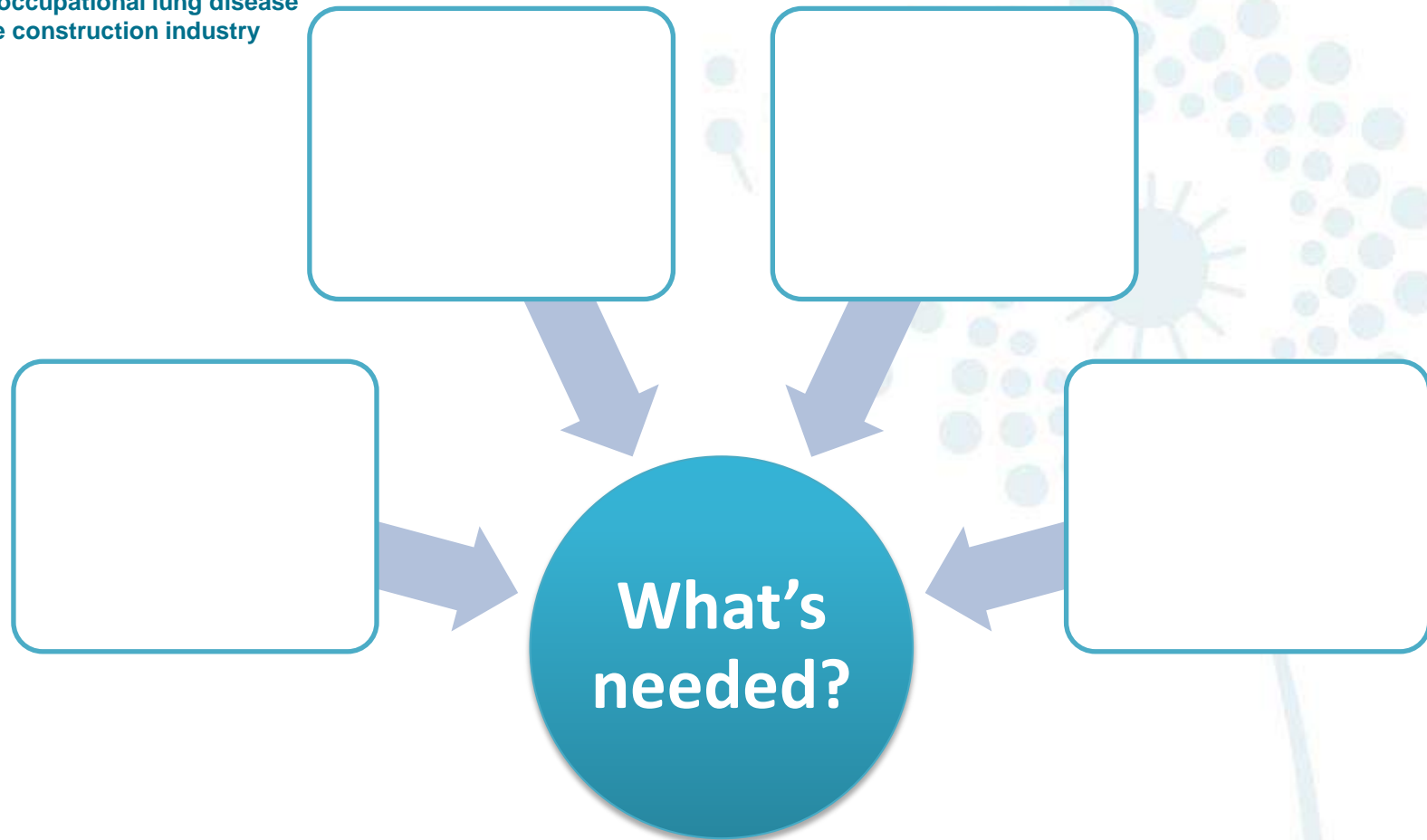
- Directory of Hygienists
- OH Qualifications
- Sharing Best Practice
- Campaigns

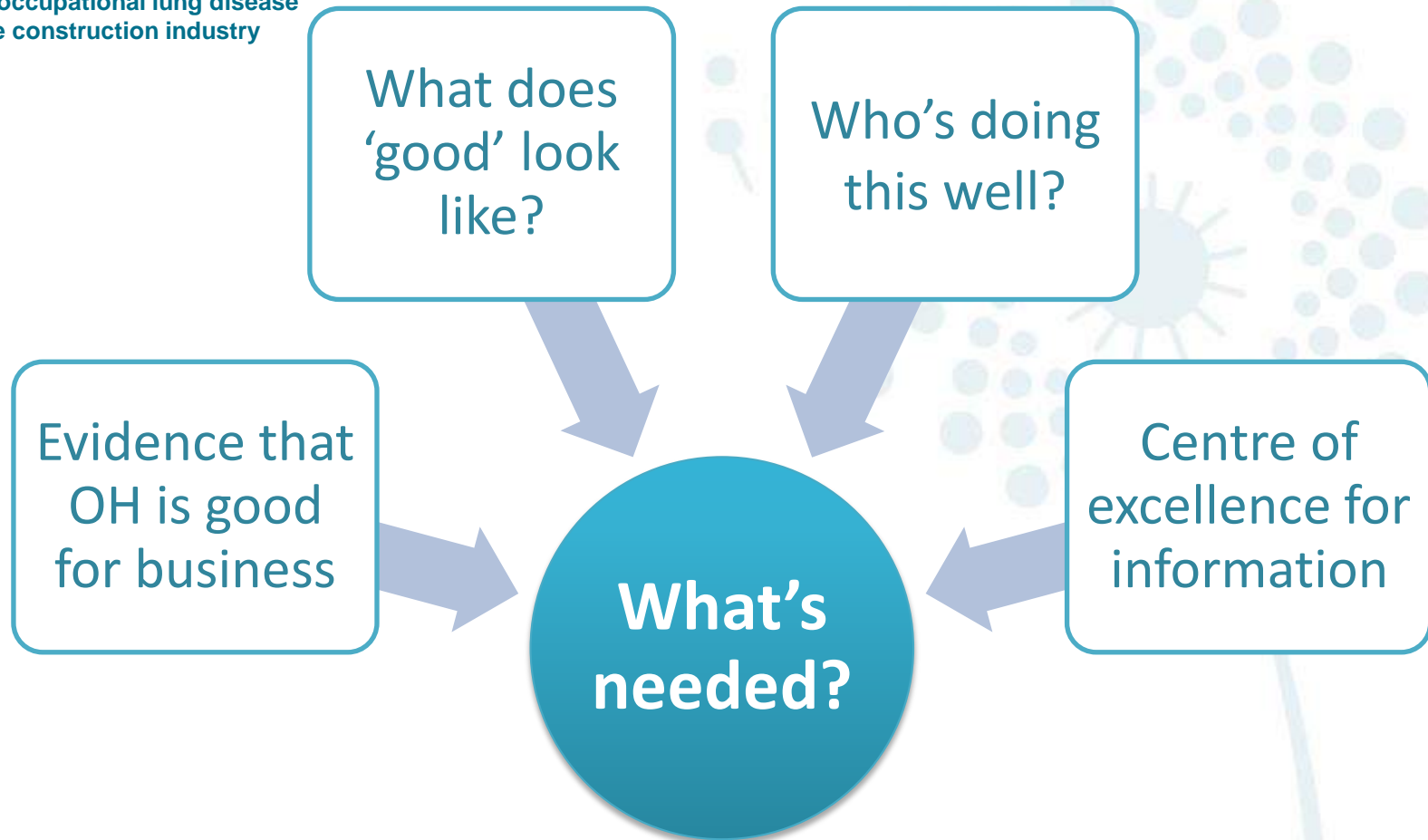
Controlling Exposures to
Prevent occupational lung disease
in the construction industry

Do you
breathe freely?

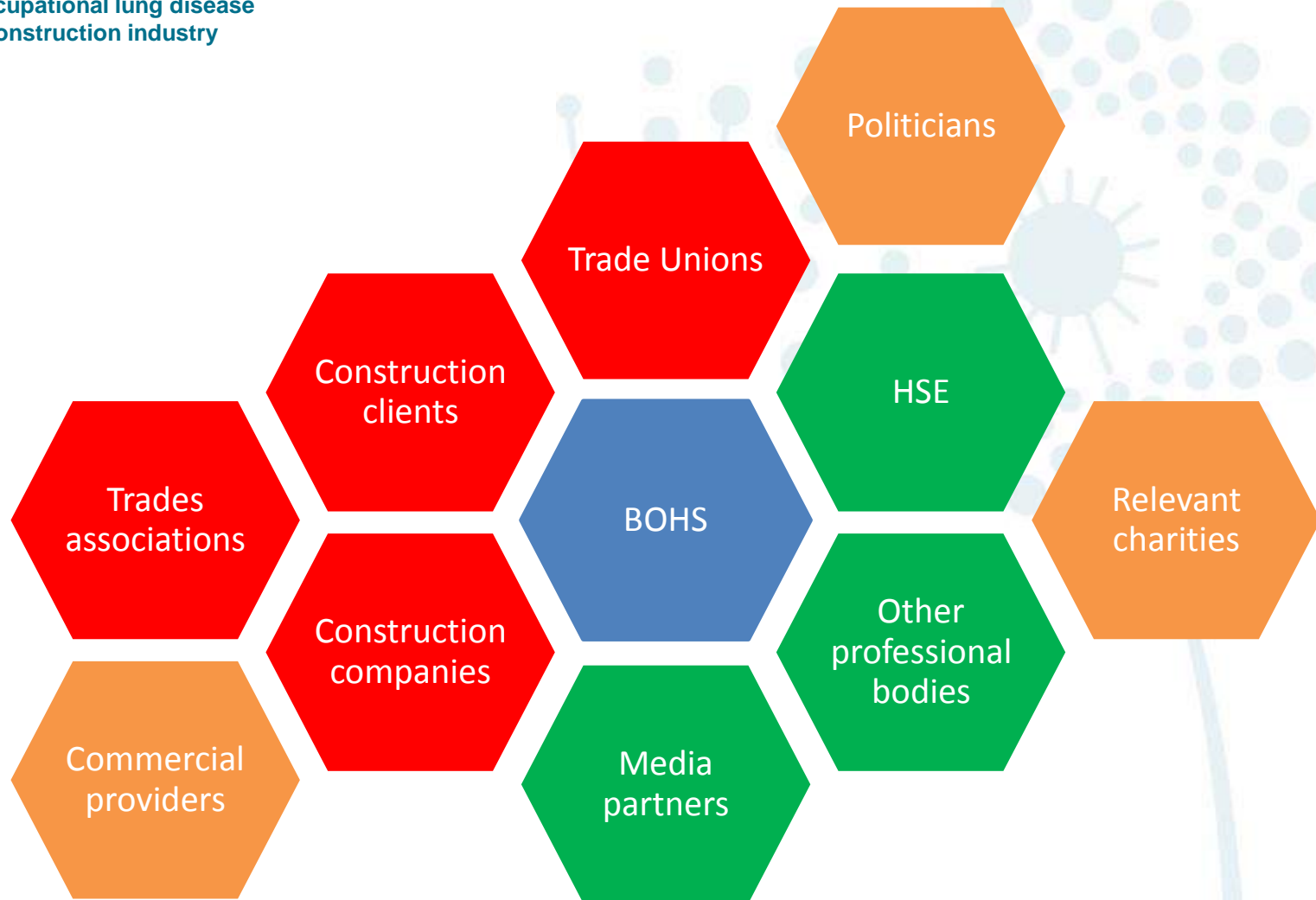


Controlling Exposures to
Prevent occupational lung disease
in the construction industry











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Controlling Exposures to prevent occupational lung disease

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.

[FAQs](#)[Protecting Worker Health](#)[What Can an Occupational Hygienist help with](#)[Trade Fact Sheets](#)[Case Studies](#)[Worker Case Studies](#)

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[Qualified Occupational Hygienist](#)

Building the Business Case for Prevention of ill health

Background

Breathe Freely is a BOHS initiative, aimed at reducing occupational health hazards which causes significant debilitating ill-health and an estimated 100,000 lost working days each year. Breathe Freely is about raising awareness both of the problem and about it; we can protect workers' health and prevent most of the harm by just "the right thing to do" - it is good for business as well. An early business case for prevention of ill health.

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

The building blocks for good business

Finance - the benefits to the bottom line.

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

Social Responsibility - making a positive impact on society.

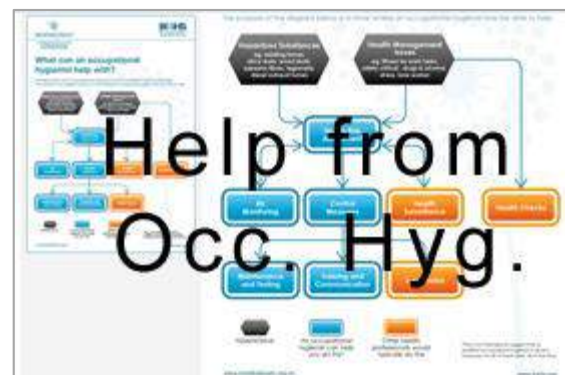
Reputation - a virtuous circle: linked to the other three building blocks, term success, the reputation of a business is built on reliability, leadership.

The business case for occupational health and hygiene is strong: a significant return on investment, improve employee relations, corporate responsibility, and enhance a company's reputation. But, it must be aligned with the organisation's vision and goals. Here we corroborate the case: prevention of ill health is good business.

Building occupational hygiene into the business

Finance

The big picture: Every year, sickness absence due to occupational health and safety issues costs the UK economy over £10 billion.



Construction Managers Toolkit



arco[®]
Experts in Safety

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Partners



constructing **better** health



Supporters



Sponsors



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



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Fatalities resulting from Accidents

VS

Deaths from Occupational Disease

VS

A few other statistics

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Fatal injuries to workers in the UK (all sectors) - 2013/14:

133

Source: HSE

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Approximate number of deaths each
year due to occupational diseases:

13,000

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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?

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HSE estimates for potentially fatal occupational diseases:

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

Source: HSE

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

5,500

Source: HSE

Grandad's Disease?

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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

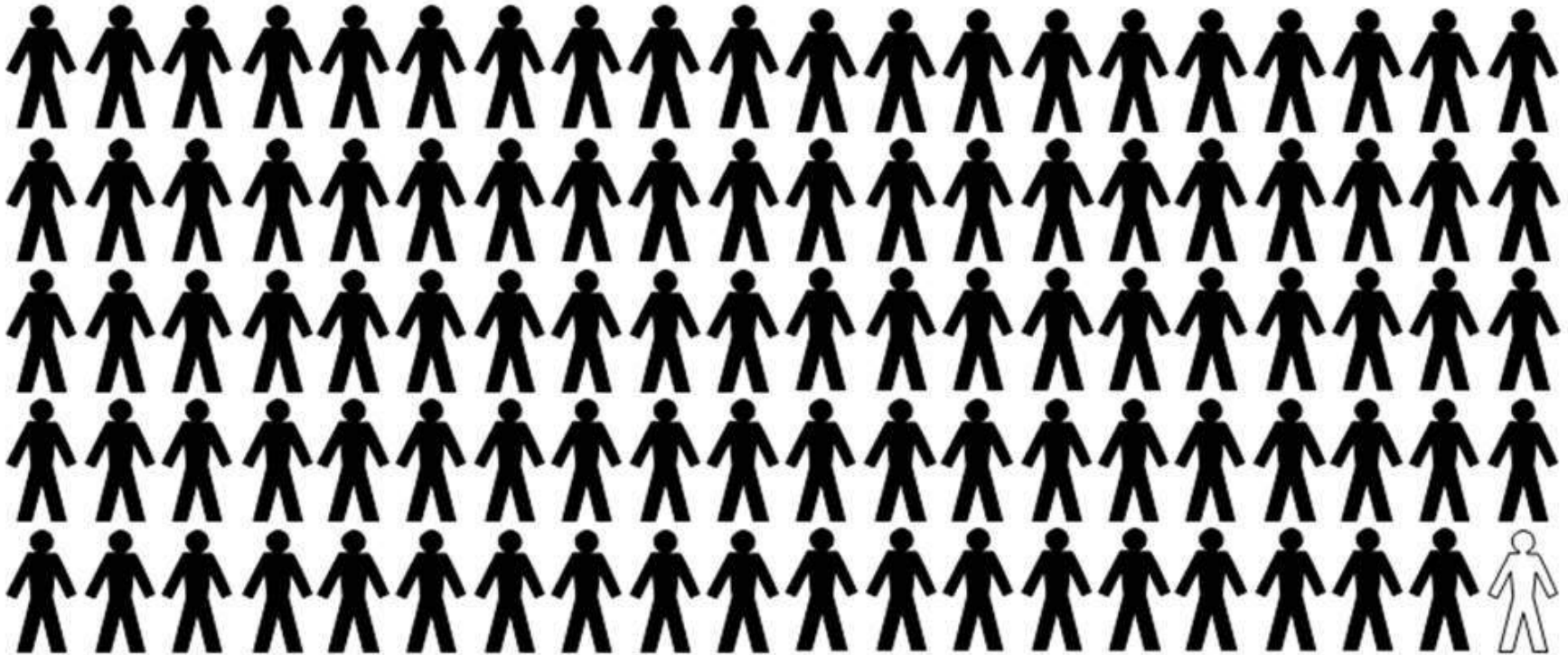
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Construction Sector: Work related ill health:

71,000

Source: HSE

99%



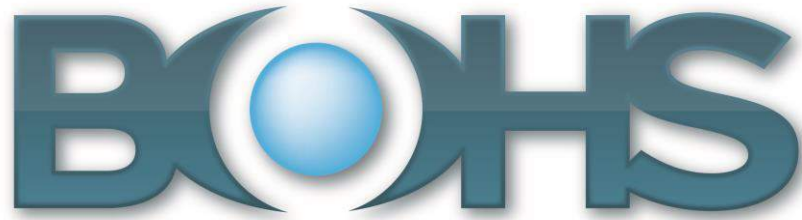
1%

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



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So why the construction industry?



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**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



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<http://www.breathefreely.org.uk>

Questions

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