

Thameslink Programme Health & Safety – Good Practice 004

Dust Suppression at Bermondsey Dive Under

Overview/Description

Did you know that over 3500 people died last year from an Occupational Health disease? The most common of these are respiratory problems such as asbestosis, silicosis and mesothelioma.

On the Bermondsey Dive Under (BDU) site our aim is to reduce the number of future occupational health diseases and prioritise the legal responsibility's vs the what's nice to have. Protecting the industry from Occupational Health diseases is sometimes not a priority for most; as human beings we focus on the here and now and not the future.

One of our main Occupational health risks on site was around the volume of harmful wood dust polluting the area where our carpenters are working.

To reduce the risk, on BDU we have introduced a combination of an on-tool dust extraction unit to rid the dust from its source along with the wearing of a half mask. This half mask is a self-face fit test mask and is fitted with replaceable twin P3 particle filters.



On site extraction tool



Self-test half mask

Benefits

- The use of the on-tool extraction unit fitted to the circular saw greatly reduces the volume of the harmful airborne dust particles created during the cutting of ply and timber
- The use of the half masks reduces the time taken to deliver face fit testing for all staff and just requires a familiarising training to change the filters
- The extraction unit not only prevents airborne particles to prevent the user breathing in particles but also prevents particles arising and harming the adjacent workers



An operative at the BDU site utilising the cutting station wearing the half mask