

# Thameslink Programme Health & Safety – Good Practice 032

## New air-flow dust mask at BBR

### Overview/Description

With the rise in ballast related operations coming in the latter stage of the project, the BBR Rail Systems team have been looking at effective methods to better protect members of staff from ballast dust.

This has been tackled three-fold:

1. Discussions with the supplier to improve the quality of ballast supplied.
2. Robust site management to isolate staff from ballast drop zone, using either auto-hoppers or RRV's.
3. Effective use of technology for those who cannot be placed away from the Ballast Dust. A field trial using the new '3M Versaflo' Powered and Supplied Air Respirator System' was successfully carried out to capture the opinions of our Crane Controllers who were directly affected.



3MTM Versaflo™  
M-306/307Helmets



3M's air delivery unit starter kits



### Benefits

The response was incredibly positive with the masks working alongside the Athena headsets with no issues.



The mask is compatible with beards, assuring that the religious and personal choice for growing facial hair was taken into account. The innovative nature of the dust mask further reduces the risk to members of staff working alongside ballast dust.

This dust mask allows us to secure the safety of our workers by ensuring the air that they are inhaling is clean and dust-free.

