



Tool Box Talk

Focus on Performance

Air Emissions

Sust. 06

What?

Air emissions include any release to the air, such as exhaust fumes, solvent fumes, odour, smoke and dust. These can be generated from many activities on construction sites including operation of plant, use of paints or chemicals, cutting or grinding and movement of materials.

Why?

Dust, emissions and odours arising from a site is likely to annoy neighbours and can cause health risks at high concentrations.

Smoke and black exhaust fumes will affect local air quality and will contribute to wider air quality problems. Exhaust emissions release potentially harmful substances such as nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and fine particles into the air. These pollutants can reach high levels of concentration in our towns and cities. Some people, plants, animals and habitats are sensitive to vehicle pollutants. For example, nitrogen oxides from exhausts form acid rain in the atmosphere that can damage the trees and soil.

Uncontrolled emissions to air and verified nuisance may be subject to legal action, which will have cost and programme implications.

How?

- Ensure you sheet wagon loads likely to generate dust while moving.
- Consider sheeting stockpiles of stone and soil to avoid windblown dust.
- Keep to site speed limits to minimise dust generated on haul roads.
- Ensure you use dust suppression, extraction or collection equipment on machinery (e.g. when cutting or chasing).
- If necessary, use water to dampen dust on roads but ensure this does not pollute local watercourses.
- Never burn materials or waste on site.
- Consider direction and strength of wind when undertaking any particularly dusty activities such as demolition.
- When plant or vehicles are not in use switch off engines to prevent unnecessary pollution by exhaust fumes.
- Report any defects in exhaust systems and visible black exhaust fumes to your supervisor.



Questions

1. How might you control dust from a cutting operation?
2. When can you burn waste on site?
3. Why might air emissions be a problem for neighbours?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this tool box talk please contact your Sustainability Advisor or Line Manager.