

Contaminated Land

Many construction sites have areas of contaminated land.

- On contaminated sites, your health could be damaged through:-
 - Skin absorption, eg: diesel
 - Skin penetration, eg: needle stick
 - Ingestion, eg: hands to food
 - Inhalation, eg: dust
- You will be told if the site has contaminated ground – if it does, don't go into the area unless your work requires it.
- If your work does require you to go into, and work with, contaminated ground, the requirements in your method statement will minimise the risks to you – use them.
- Always wash your hands before eating or smoking and at the end of each work period.
- You must not eat on site as this may lead to ingestion of contaminated soil, use the canteen.
- If you have even the slightest cut or scratch, get it thoroughly cleaned by the first aider and covered with a waterproof dressing. This can stop Weil's disease, hepatitis, tetanus, etc.

The following should be reported immediately should you come across them:-

- Patches of thick black material, blue powders, yellow powders or any other suspicious substance
- Strange smells, especially of rotten eggs
- Any sign of fire
- Any health disorders during work must be reported to your supervisor eg: headaches, stomach upsets, etc.
- Non-working clothes should be left in the area provided and overalls should be put on before starting work.
- When leaving the site, protective clothing should be stored in the area provided, where necessary. Shower and wash thoroughly.

Questions:

- 1 How can you protect your health when working on Contaminated land?
- 2 Why is smoking, when working on Contaminated land, not a good idea?
- 3 What should you do if you feel ill on site?

Remember:

**Protect yourself against the contamination,
You know it makes sense.**

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 31