

## CASE STUDY

### John Sisk | Occupational Health Dust Campaign June 2023

## Introduction

John Sisk & Son held a summer health awareness campaign, this campaign coincided with the Health, Safety & Executive (HSE) dust kills Campaign. As part of this summer campaign, the HSE are targeting inspections on construction sites across the UK that will focus on dust controls, checking employers and workers know the risks, plan their work, and are using the right controls

In previous years John Sisk & Son have focused on their S5 Risks (Fatal Risks), so for 2023 we wanted to shift the dial and raise greater awareness of three of the biggest occupational health risks on our projects, namely dust, vibration, and noise. Our first Campaign focused on construction dust.

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### Overview

Construction dust can cause diseases such as asthma, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and silicosis.

Exposure to construction dust accounts for approximately 8,000 new cases of occupational cancer across Europe each year. It is a sobering figure, and we must start to address this through awareness/education, appropriate control measures and new ways of working.

At John Sisk & Son we wanted to use the campaign to create an open environment where everyone has a voice, talk about occupational health, and identify opportunities for intervention & improvement.



### Challenges

- In the European Union, there are around 7,000 cases of lung cancer caused by silica dust and 900 cases in the UK each year.
- UK HSE 2022 Statistics - 12,000 lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work.
- UK HSE 2022 Statistics - 19,000 Estimated new cases of breathing or lung problems caused or made worse by work each year on average over the last three years.



## Action Taken

- Communication - Desktop screen lock with a QR code on the screen to 1-minute dust campaign introduction video.
- Encourage your colleagues to do the same and share with our supply chain partners.
- Toolbox talks, one on Silica Dust and a second on Construction Dust, have been incorporated into the OHS Management System.
- A Guidance Document on Construction Dust has also been updated incorporated into OHS Management System, with the aim of better supporting our projects to manage the potential health risks of construction dust.
- “Breathe Freely” Poster Campaign. These posters are on display in prominent locations across our projects.
- Pocket-sized concertina cards on Silica Dust have been produced, and these will be handed out to workers on our projects who are working with products containing silica.

“This is not a topic we can simply talk about once a week per year. It needs to become part of normal Health and Safety conversations on all our projects in order to better protect people’s health.”

Face fit testing train the tester.



## Results

- Raising awareness and challenging common myths
- Safety Observation reporting – Encouraged reporting of opportunities for improvement.
- Correct type of respiratory equipment being selected and worn.
- Looking at opportunities of eliminating activities that create dust.
- Introducing engineering controls
- Controlling dust at source.
- Identifying and ensuring that the correct Personal Protective Equipment is used correctly.



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home  
**safe**  
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