TOOLBOX TALK 1:

Wood dust and your health

Attendance record

Site:				Date: DD / MM / YEAR
Supervisor:				
Attendees:				

Wood dust

– Wood processing creates small particles of dust

– These small dust particles will float around in the air after the tool work or hand sanding has finished

– You can inhale these wood dust particles deep into your lungs

Wood dust from using an electric grinder

How is wood dust harmful

– Dust particles can scar your lungs

– The scaring damages your lungs and makes it harder to breathe

– You can get allergies, asthma and cancer

More health risks

– **Swallowing dust**: affects intestines, bloodstream and organs

– **Eye contact**: dust can damage your eyes or cause irritation

– **Skin contact**: some dusts can cause skin ulcers, dry, itchy and sore skin

Wood dust from our work

What are some tasks we do that make wood dust?

Prompt:

– sawing   – machining

– cutting   – sanding

How can we manage the risks from wood dust?

What controls measures do we already have?

Prompt:

Ask your team what they think should be done to manage the risks from wood dust at your workplace.
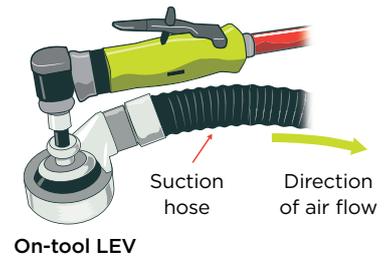
The fact sheet *Wood Dust: Controlling the Risks* provides more information on this topic.

The *Wood Dust and Your Health Toolbox Talk 2* provides more information on controls.

Control measures

– Local exhaust ventilation

– On-tool extraction

– Use the right tool for the job

– Use water and wet working methods

– Follow work instructions

– Use the correct RPE and PPE

– Good housekeeping – use a vacuum cleaner

– No dry sweeping

– Limit time doing dusty work

– Change out of dusty clothes at work

– Wash your hands and face before eating

On-tool LEV

Suction hose

Direction of air flow

Half-face respirator

Why we do health monitoring

– Health monitoring checks that your health is not being affected by your work

– If your work is dusty you may need an annual lung function test and to complete a respiratory health questionnaire

– Health monitoring is done by a health professional such as an occupational health nurse or doctor

– Personal information is kept confidential