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 airborne 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?
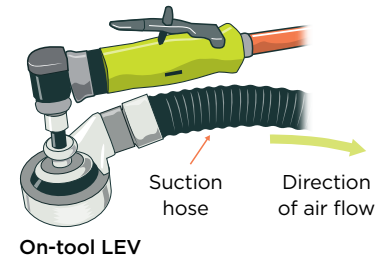
What controls measures do we already have?

Prompt:

Ask your team what they think should be done to manage the risks from wood dust at your workplace.

The quick guide *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.

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New Zealand Government

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

– No compressed air

– Limit time doing dusty work

– Change out of dusty clothes at work

– Wash your hands and face before eating

Suction
hose

Direction
of air flow

On-tool LEV

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