

Talk No: 61	Title: Asbestos
<p>Introduction: Asbestos is the largest single cause of work-related fatal disease and ill health in Great Britain. It is a carcinogen and is responsible for lung diseases such as Asbestosis and Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer. Almost all asbestos-related deaths and ill health are a result of exposure that happened decades ago.</p>	
<p>Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What is an Asbestos Register and the importance of using it. – Where asbestos might be found and the identified locations within the site. – If you suspect that any surface you are about to work with or drill/cut contains asbestos, stop work immediately and contact your manager for advice. – The location of asbestos and its identification can be difficult, since its appearance may be changed by surface coatings <p>Key Points</p> <p>The asbestos removal industry estimates that over 3,000 products contained asbestos. It can be found in insulation and sprayed coatings, boilers, plant and pipe work, fire protection to steelwork, insulation board, cladding on walls and ceilings, asbestos cement, textured coatings, floor tiles, door panels, bitumen, cord, string, paper, gasket's etc.</p> <p>Other discussion points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is currently estimated that 20 people from the construction industries die each week as a result of past asbestos exposure – Be aware asbestos breaks into long fibres. They can become embedded in your lungs causing asbestosis, fibrosis or a cancer known as mesothelioma. – Working with asbestos is a specialist area and must be left to specialist contractors. – Buildings constructed before the year 2000 may have forms of asbestos-containing materials in them. – In any circumstance where there is an accidental discovery or uncontrolled release of asbestos into the workplace then measures, including emergency procedures should be in place to limit exposure and the risks to health. Such procedures should include means to raise the alarm and procedures for evacuation, which should be tested and practised at regular intervals. The cause of the uncontrolled release should be identified, and adequate control regained as soon as possible. <p style="text-align: center;">DON'T RISK TODAY, WHAT MIGHT AFFECT YOU TOMORROW?</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	