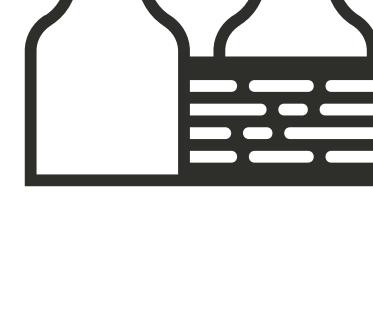


TOOLBOX TALKS



WORKING ON PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

WHAT?

Land which has previously been built on or used by industrial processes ("brownfield land") or which has in the past had imported material placed upon it ("made ground") may be contaminated with substances which are harmful to humans, wildlife and /or the surrounding environment.

Contaminants could be present in solid form such as asbestos or tar residues, in liquid form such as oils or solvents or even as a gas such as methane.

Since potentially contaminated material can sometimes be discovered where it is not expected it is always wise to remain observant during digging operations.



WHY?

HEALTH HAZARD:

Exposure to certain contaminants may cause skin and/or respiratory irritation, cancer or birth defects. Wearing the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can prevent ill health.

AVOID ENVIRONMENTAL HARM:

Working in contaminated soils without the proper precautions and controls may result in pollution and / or harm spreading into the surrounding land, adjacent watercourses or into the atmosphere.

AVOID PROSECUTION:

Any pollution escaping from the site may lead to prosecution.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

The bad publicity arising from pollution incidents damages the reputation of the company.

DO

Always wear the correct protective clothing.

Wash your hands and all areas of exposed skin after working in made ground or brownfield land.

Look out for changes to the types of material being worked in which may show up as

- Differences in colour or texture
- The presence of refuse (rubbish) or other foreign objects.
- Differences in smell - common contaminants such as oils, landfill gases and degrading waste have distinctive odours.

If you see changes like these **STOP WORK**, make the area safe and notify your Line Manager.

Prevent the spread of contaminated dust - either cover the source or damp it down.

DON'T

DON'T take off PPE.

DON'T smoke or eat whilst working in made ground.

DON'T permit colleagues or other operatives to enter the contaminated land until your line manager instructs you to do so.

TOOLBOX TALKS



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS CONTACT **YOUR SHEQ DEPARTMENT**