



Association for Public Service Excellence



*Project for reducing respiratory disease  
in kerb, paving and block cutting.*

Dukinfield Town Hall, Tameside

2nd September 2008

Ian Evans  
Contracts Manager  
Tameside MBC

# How many times do you see this occurring?



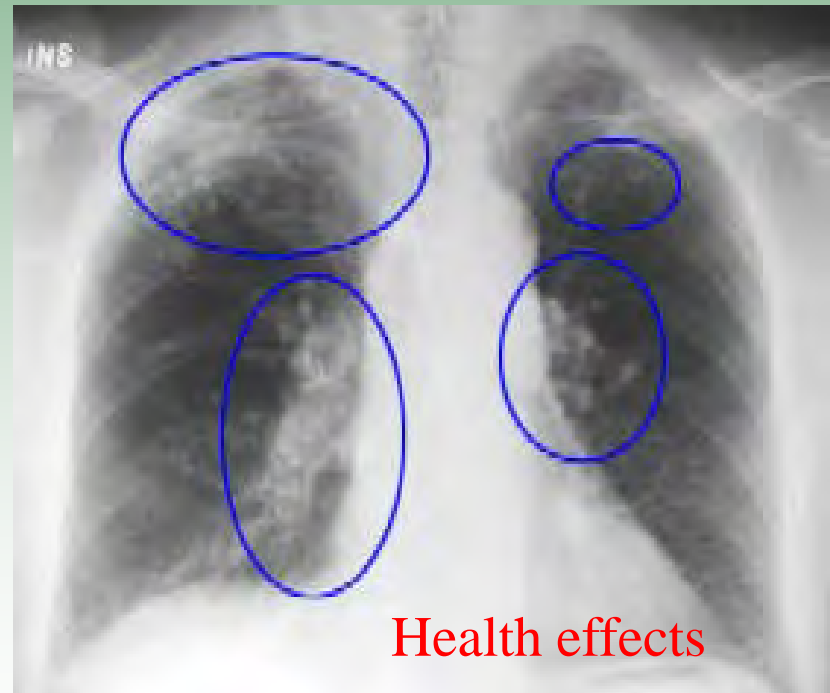
# The Hazards

- Cutting paving and kerbstones with rotary cutters produces airborne respirable crystalline silica (RCS)
- All RCS is hazardous which can cause silicosis.
- Although exposures may be short, they can be very high which can cause serious lung disease leading to permanent disability and early death.
- Exposure linked to COPD.
- The RCS dust generated is so fine that it is invisible under normal light.
- More usually silicosis develops after many years of exposure, and often only becomes apparent in retired workers.

# What are the issues?



RCS legal limit



Health effects

# The Facts

- Each year 150,000 people suffer from work related breathing or lung problems.
- An estimated 4,000 people a year die from work related Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- 4,000 people a year die from asbestos related diseases.
- There are an estimated 8,400\* cases of work related skin disease and 1700\* new cases of work related asthma per annum.

Source: HSE statistics (THOR and SWI survey)

\* Estimates corrected for under-reporting

# The Problem

- 80% of site operators claim to be affected by dust on a regular basis. Only 20% claim it is a serious problem
- Nearly 60% of site operatives thought they could do more to protect themselves
- Over 40% were unaware of any company dust control policies
- Most operatives thought that PPE (masks) were adequate protection but felt they were uncomfortable
- Many workers felt that dust extraction/suppression tools were often unavailable.

Source : Speedy plc 2007

# The Problem

Number of Cut Off saws in the national fleet – 50,000

Between 75% and 100% have water connections.

However,

- 1) Number of tanks in stock; around 1 per 25 saws (about 2000)
- 2) Tanks supplied; “less than 1% of the time”; “never”: “very very rarely”

Hire Association Europe Survey March 2007



# HSE Working Group

In line with HSE strategy to address Occupational health issues (through its disease reduction programme), a working group was established in March 2007 to tackle respiratory disease associated with exposure to dusts generated by kerb, paving and block cutting operations.

# The Working Group is chaired by Dr Robert Ellis,( HSE) and consists of the following Key Stakeholders

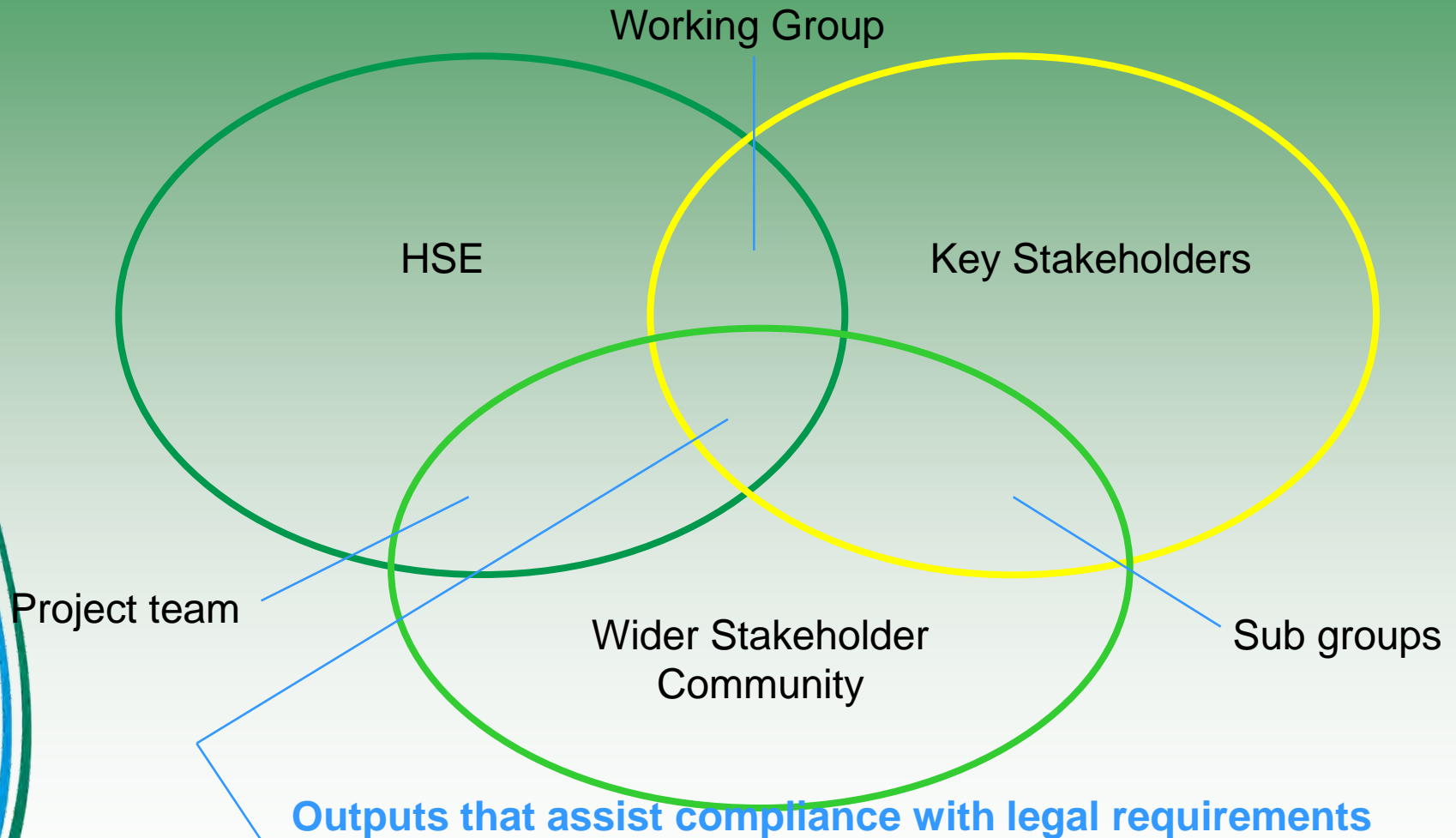


Rob Ellis

- **Client**
  - Highways Agency
  - APSE (Tameside Borough Council)
  - Transport for London
- **Construction**
  - CECA (Costain)
  - Construction Confederation
  - National Joint Utilities Group (Daniel Contractors)
- **Worker**
  - UCATT

- 
- Training
    - Construction Skills
    - Paving Expert (consultant)
  - Suppliers
    - Interpave/ BPCF
    - Durakerb
    - Hire Association Europe
    - European Power Tool Association
    - STIHL

# Construction Supply Chain Project



# Aim of the Working Group

- ‘ to identify a range of practical interventions and lead on their implementation to reduce or eliminate the risk of respiratory disease in kerb, paving and block cutting ’*



# Objectives of the Working Group

1. Identify potential interventions for all parts of the supply chain that would:
  - help eliminate or reduce exposure to below the workplace exposure limit.
  - raise awareness of the risk.
  - embed good practice
2. Engage stakeholders to provide input into identifying suitable interventions.
3. Plan and communicate implementation of the interventions.
4. Actively manage communications to stakeholders and those undertaking cutting activities.

# Outputs



# Launch Event 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008



# Working Group Members



# Worker Engagement - Lord McKenzie meets Gary Wilde and John Williams



# Use of Alternative Products - Plastic Kerb



Costain Case Study

Use of Plastic Kerb

# Use Of Alternative Products (2)

**Reward for government agency that has striven to reduce pulmonary disease among its workforce**



Steve Williams  
Highways Agency

# Use Of Alternative Products (3)

IHT Health and Safety Award for Durakerb



# How have Tameside MBC approached the problem?

- Polypropylene tank units, hoses and reels purchased and distributed to all construction gangs.
- Development of a case study recently published on HSE website



# Managing communications and being consistent

In house tool box talks



Speedy Hire tool box Talks





# Managing Communications (3)

- Risk Assessments
- Method Statements
- Site Inductions
- HSE Information Sheets – CIS54, CN6
- Case Studies
- Posters

# Managing Communications (4)

- 'Time to Clear the Air' Leaflet– Operative input
- Site Safe News
- HSE Messages on Paver Markers
- Daily Supervisor/Operative Engagement
- Consistency With Sub – Contractors
- CI Groups between Managers, Operatives, Client and Designers

# What does this mean for Service delivery?

- Sickness absence levels improving.
- Healthier Workforce
- Professional image
- Embedding Good practice
- Cleaner Environment
- Working towards the Community Strategy
  - A Prosperous Society
  - A Healthy Population
  - An Attractive Borough

# Is the Project making a difference.....Messages

**Vaughan Burnand, Chair MCG Health and safety Committee has issued the following statement from the Major Contractors Group:**

“The Major Contractor's Group support the work of the Reducing Respiratory Disease in Kerb, Paving and Block Cutting Project. Methods and products to prevent dust clouds have been available for a long time and this group has produced a range of resources to facilitate their use. It is now up to industry as a whole to take the lead and prevent needless illness and deaths caused by silica dust.”

# Message

Hi Rob

Just to let you know South Lanarkshire Council will now use the DVD and leaflets for all training courses for Power Cutters. This means that information and instruction will be given to approx 600 operatives so that will make a difference.

Regards

Tom Gowans  
Health & Safety Training & Development Officer

# Message

Could you please send me some leaflets and 10-20 DVD's and will distribute them at our next safety meeting of the North West Construction Safety Group (I am currently Chairman) and at a subsequent meeting we will carryout a presentation dealing with cutting Kerbs ect. Please send them to

Mr. P Williams  
Safety Manager  
Marshall Construction Group  
Huddersfield Road  
Elland  
West Yorkshire  
HX5 9BW

# Message

Hi Rob

Can you please send me a copy of the DVD. I'll advertise it in our monthly mailing this month and we will make the necessary copies to send to our Members.

Many thanks

Carole

Carole Green  
Manager - BMF Product Support

# So Let's See More of This



Good Practice



Good Practice



Good Practice

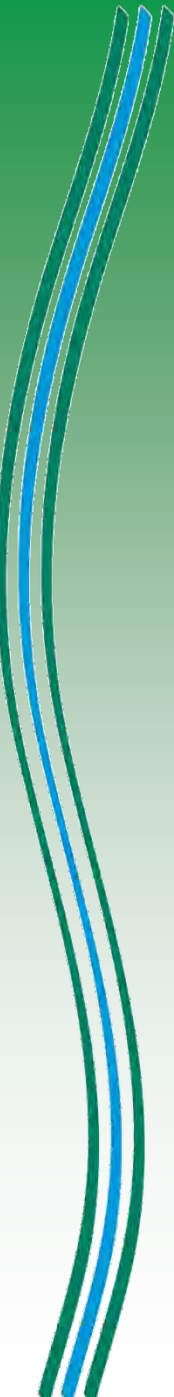
# And this.....



Good Practice



Good Practice

- 
- Finally,
  - I leave you with a quote from Nelson Mandela  
.....
  - **“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”**
  - Well, I don’t think we are going to change the world today but we can strive to make construction sites a cleaner, healthier and safer place to work.
  - Thank you very much



Thank you for listening.

Visit the web site at:

- <http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk>