

# LET'S TALK DUST – ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION



An engagement discussion allows the facilitator to achieve the learning objectives for the session by working closely with the participants so that they feel fully part of the process, come up with their own answers and 'own' their learning.

Running a discussion-based session rather than a traditional toolbox talk or training slot can help people really think about the issue, develop their understanding and share ideas and solutions. Even partial insights and wrong turns are part of the process. And because it's interactive and involves lots of input from the participants themselves, the results are more memorable.

## Engagement discussion resources

- Grab cards – select from our range of 16 cards to match your learning objectives
- Facilitator notes – each grab card has corresponding information to help steer the discussion
- PowerPoint file – this isn't designed to be delivered as a traditional presentation. If you want to use PowerPoint to help focus your group on each discussion topic, or to run a 'paperless' session, just select the points you want to use in our PowerPoint file. Each slide includes the relevant facilitator notes in the presenter 'notes' area

**TIP** Familiarise yourself with all the facilitator notes so that you're able to cover any extra points or questions that come up during a grab card discussion.

## Running your engagement discussion

- 1 Choose a selection of the grab cards to match the points you want to cover, or ask participants to make their own choice from the range, or part of the range.
- 2 Work your way through the themes and points, encouraging everyone to get involved. Each grab card includes facilitator notes to help inform the discussion.
- 3 Supplement your session with an activity or film – have a look at our 'Ideas' box.
- 4 Use our '5-minute briefing', 'Dust down' pocket card or 'Dust to dust?' employee leaflet to consolidate learning. Hand out or show relevant IOSH resources during your session – the facilitator notes include a few suggestions.
- 5 Make sure that you agree 'takeaways' to capture what's been discussed at the close of your session. Test participants' understanding of what you've talked about at this stage too.

**TIP** During your session, you could swap the word 'silica' for the products or materials most relevant to your organisation – for example referring to 'brick dust', 'stone dust' or 'ballast dust'

## Ideas

- Challenge participants with our 'Fake or for real' online quiz as part of your session – find it at [www.notimetolose.org.uk](http://www.notimetolose.org.uk). The quiz can act as an icebreaker too
- Play a short film as part of your session:
  - The WorkSafeBC film shows how silica dust damages lungs – find it at [www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=36018](http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=36018)
  - The Quarries Partnership Team animation shows the effects of silica dust over time, and includes good practice scenarios – play it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=swLPMgpMQCU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swLPMgpMQCU)
  - Hear from a former stoneworker and silicosis sufferer at [www.hse.gov.uk/lung-disease/case-study-stoneworker-terry.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/lung-disease/case-study-stoneworker-terry.htm)
  - The Health and Safety Executive has films featuring a range of high risk tasks at [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardoussubstances/construction-dust-specific-tasks.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardoussubstances/construction-dust-specific-tasks.htm)
  - The Safe Quarry site is a hub for short films, including HSE films showing sanding with and without special lighting to demonstrate how silica dust can be invisible in normal light, as well as the 'Don't be a dummy' film, illustrating how silica dust is breathed deep into the lungs. Go to [www.safequarry.com/ToolboxSearch.aspx](http://www.safequarry.com/ToolboxSearch.aspx) and select 'Dust and silica' on the menu to access the downloadable films. You can also download the WorkSafe film from here
  - The European Network for Silica offers good practice and bad practice films showing different silica dust exposure control methods. They are available in 22 languages, all downloadable at [www.nepsi.eu/projects/pimexvideos/download-videos.aspx](http://www.nepsi.eu/projects/pimexvideos/download-videos.aspx)
  - The HSE's guide to using respiratory protective equipment is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrieWGoClfE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrieWGoClfE)
- Make sure you have no-one suffering from conditions such as asthma in your group, then ask people to quickly walk around 100 metres, followed by climbing a flight of stairs. Straight after, get them to breathe through a straw, while pinching their noses.



Explain that this sensation is what it's like to breathe with severe lung damage, like that caused by silica dust.



- Use our poster range – you can print out a selection to get the discussion started, theme a whole session around one, or pick one to go with a relevant grab card.

