

Welcome to another edition of 'Astute Safety Thinking' In this month's edition:

- Dust
- Astute Safety Consulting-eLearning Training Courses.
- Plumber jailed after illegal gas work costs elderly woman over £1000
- Exeter Farmer fined after teenage worker injured on dumper.
- Company and director fined after HSE inspectors find unusable toilet
- World Autism Awareness Day
- Easter Sunday



## Dust

Dust is a general term for particles of any substance that become suspended in the air.

Sometimes the particles are so small they are not visible to the naked eye.

Dust can be breathed in to the lungs ("respirable dust") where it can cause damage to the lung tissue. It can also irritate eyes, skin and the digestive tract.

### Dangers of dust

- Any dust can be dangerous if its particles are small enough to stay suspended in the air.
- Certain dusts cause serious health problems even at low levels e.g. some wood dusts may cause cancer – the HSE's EH40 document gives exposure limits for general and specific dusts.
- Dusts can form explosive mixtures in air, e.g. flour. So it is important to prevent dust building up and to control ignition sources such as electrical equipment.

### Health impacts of dust

- Uncontrolled levels of dust can cause the following
- Occupational asthma (OA)
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma (often associated with exposure to asbestos fibres)
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Dermatitis and other allergic skin conditions
- Eye damage/irritation.

### Ways of controlling dust

- The Workplace (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations require effective and suitable ventilation of the workplace.
- Good ventilation can remove dust - this may be either general room/space ventilation system or a local exhaust ventilation (LEV) targeted at problem areas/processes.
- The effective design and maintenance of any ventilation system is crucial.
- Supervision of work operations can promote safe working practice. November 2020 Dust Ways of controlling dust (cont.)
- Workers must always follow safety instructions on dust management.
- Airborne sampling may be used to identify worker exposure to dust.



# Why Astute Safety Consulting?

We've teamed up with Video Tile Learning to offer you the latest online learning resources, designed to improve you and your team's safety awareness and knowledge. You choose the subjects and learn at your own pace. Having teamed up with video Tile learning we offer the following:



## Allergen Awareness

This course covers general allergies, food allergies and food intolerances and explains the differences between them. It covers the 14 allergens controlled by legislation along with food additives and how they can trigger allergic reactions. It takes a detailed look at the symptoms of food allergies and takes in the wider picture discussing the current theories of why rates are increasing. It then finishes off by covering practical steps that can be taken to reduce the risk from allergens and also what steps can be taken both internally and externally to monitor the control measures. some of the key laws regarding health and safety in the workplace and how to ensure positive workforce attitudes.

**CPD Units: 3**  
**Approved by CPD, Gatehouse Awards, Institute of Hospitality & IIRSM**  
**100 mins**



## Workplace Health and Safety

At the end of this course, you will have an understanding of health and safety legislation and you'll be able to list common causes of accidents. You'll also be able to understand good practice in relation to electricity and describe the use of safe manual handling techniques as well as be able to describe good practice associated with COSHH regulations, be able to describe your action in the event of a fire and also you will know how to deal with an accident.

**CPD Units: 2**  
**Approved by IIRSM, CPD & IOSH**  
**45 mins**



## Asbestos Awareness

As well as informing you about the risks of working with asbestos, the course will deliver a lot more information about: Recognising asbestos, where it's used, minimising the risks and the legislation about working with asbestos.

**CPD Units: 3**  
**Approved by IATP, CPD & IIRSM**  
**65 mins**

**BROWSE OUR TRAINING  
MODULES**



## Autism Awareness

This course will provide you with an understanding of what autism is and how it affects a child's daily life. It will touch on what factors contribute towards a child developing autism as well as some of the typical behaviours associated with it and how it can provide effective support for those with the condition. It also discusses what happens during the diagnosis process, some of the intervention methods that can help manage the condition and suggests some simple adaptations you can make to improve a child who has autism day to day life.

**CPD Units: 2**  
**Approved by CPD**  
**30 mins**



### Plumber jailed after illegal gas work costs elderly woman over £1000

A plumber has been jailed for 16 months after carrying out illegal gas work that cost an elderly woman over £1000.

Christopher Roland Shaw, also known as Chris Parker and trading as SOS Express Plumbing, attended the woman's home in Leeds, in October 2019, where he was hired to carry out gas work. Mr Shaw had been assisting the woman with general plumbing needs for a number of years and told her he fitted the water heater in her bathroom.

As a result of this, the woman believed Mr Shaw was able to work on gas appliances. At the request of the woman, who was 81 at the time, Mr Shaw then removed an existing gas boiler and installed a new combination boiler at a total cost of £1157.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Mr Shaw was not registered with the Gas Safety Register (GSR), a legal requirement whilst carrying out gas work. Mr Shaw's work at the woman's home was subsequently investigated by GSR, which identified several issues. Read the full article [here](#).



### Exeter Farmer fined after teenage worker injured on dumper.

A farmer has been fined £8k after a teenage worker suffered serious head injuries when a six-tonne dumper he was driving overturned.



An investigation by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) found that Richard Palfrey did not ask the two young workers their ages or make any enquiries into their training or experience in operating dumpers. Read the full article [here](#).

### Company and director fined after HSE inspectors find unusable toilet

A company and its director have been fined after they failed to provide suitable welfare facilities at a construction site in Belsize Park, North London.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection of the site on 29 November 2021 found the welfare facilities did not comply with the minimum requirements as set out in Schedule 2 of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015; the toilet provided was not flushable and was in a room without a door or window coverings. Read the full article [here](#)

---

### World Autism Awareness Day 2 April 2023

April is National Autism Awareness Month, and the 2nd of April 2023 is World Autism Day.

It aims to recognise and spread awareness and shine a light on Autism for both Adults and children,

It is also an event for tackling misinformation and myths about Autism. This includes girls not having autism, when they are often actually undiagnosed compared to boys. Autism affects both men and women of all races in all countries. This is precisely why raising awareness and understanding, acceptance and foster worldwide support.

### Easter Sunday- 9 April 2023

For all of you that celebrate Easter we would like to take a moment to wish you all a joyful and Happy Easter!

Don't eat too many eggs!

