

# Toolbox Talk

## 05. Asbestos



### What?

- Asbestos is a naturally-occurring mineral that has been used for thousands of years
- It consists of fibrous material; these fibres are invisible to the naked eye
- It is used to reinforce or thermally/acoustically benefit building products such as:-
  - Boarding, lagging, gaskets
  - Textured coating, paper
  - Cement
  - Insulation etc



### Why?

- The size of the fibres means that it can penetrate and lodge in the deepest parts of the lung
- These fibres can be released into the air when Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) are disturbed
- Over time these fibres can cause cancer or lung fibrosis, ingestion can also cause cancer
- Main recognised illnesses are Asbestosis, Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer, Pleural plaques and some of these can take between 15 – 60 years to develop
- Dust can spread to areas other than where the immediate work is taking place
- There are very strict legal rules on what work can and cannot be done

### Do



- ✓ Check if there is any known asbestos containing materials on site before starting work
- ✓ Stop work if you suspect asbestos and report it immediately
- ✓ Follow the written safe system of work to avoid disturbing this material
- ✓ Inform your line manager of any concerns
- ✓ Comply with all precautions detailed in any permit to work
- ✓ Watch out for asbestos warning signs and think before commencing work

### Don't



- ✗ Continue to work if you have concerns about asbestos
- ✗ Disturb dust lying on surfaces if you think it may contain asbestos
- ✗ Remove, repair or encapsulate asbestos, unless trained and authorised to do so
- ✗ Cut, drill, saw or do anything that will disturb the material
- ✗ Remove any suspected material from site
- ✗ Continue to wear any clothing which may be contaminated with asbestos



Document Name	TBT 5 Asbestos	Document No	FM/HS/TBT/007
Document Owner	Stuart Care	Date of Issue	13/01/2017
Classification	Internal Use	Version No	01