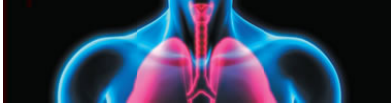


**Unite the Union – East Midlands Regional Council
Health & Safety Conference 2008**

IMPROVING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AT WORK



Mark Lawton
Programme & Delivery Manager
Disease Reduction Programme

Fit3 Programme

- Strategic delivery programme
- “Fit for work, fit for life, fit for tomorrow”
- Disease Reduction Programme (DRP)

DRP - The challenge

It is estimated that, each year there are:

- 10,000+ work-related deaths – 98% due to occupational disease
- 6000 deaths from cancer, 4000 of which asbestos-related
- 4000 deaths from COPD
- 8400 new cases of contact dermatitis
- 1700 new cases of occupational asthma

DRP Priority Areas

DRP’s overall objective is to reduce exposure to harmful substances in order to prevent death and ill-health.

3 priority areas:

- Skin Disease (Contact Dermatitis)
- Respiratory Disease (Asthma and Long Latency Respiratory Disease)
- Cancer (Asbestos)

HSE Activities – Skin Disease

- Strong stakeholder engagement in hairdressing and catering:
 - Habia – dermatitis module, dermatitis included in roadshows and award scheme
 - HBSA – influencing suppliers to stock appropriate gloves
- POSHH – taking hand care forward
- LA/FOD interventions in key sectors

HSE Activities – Respiratory Diseases

- Engineering control initiative – cross-cutting
- COPD website
- Asthma – flour benchmark
- Stakeholder engagement
 - Silica (kerb-cutting project)
 - Speedy Hire campaign
 - UKLA DVD

HSE Activities – Cancer & Asbestos



- Chemical Carcinogens – Unions involved in workshops to develop partnerships
- The Hidden Killer national asbestos publicity campaign – Oct/Nov 2008
 - TUC badge on campaign materials
 - Unite producing branded posters & stickers

Looking ahead – the future for disease reduction ?



- Align with the new HSE strategy
- Continued focus on asthma and dermatitis
 - 2010 Revitalising target
 - Ensure dutyholder ownership and leadership into future
- Long latency (cancer, silica, COPD etc)
 - LEV/RPE enabling projects
 - Segmentation approach
 - Construction, quarrying, stonemasons (silica)
 - Woodworkers, rubber, foundries, welding (other cancer/respiratory)

Looking ahead – the future for disease reduction ?



- Further asbestos campaigns/initiative?
- 'Leading indicators' – critical to measure success
- Educating tomorrow's workforce - working with the tertiary sector
 - LSC & CHASTE
 - Colleges
 - Awarding bodies

Further Information



- DRP - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/drp/index.htm>
- Skin – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/index.htm>
- Asthma – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asthma/index.htm>
- COPD – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/copd/index.htm>
- Asbestos - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm>
- LEV - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/lev/index.htm>