

British Occupational Hygiene Society & Breathe Freely Campaign



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British Occupational Hygiene Society



The Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection

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BOHS: Principal Examiner – Local Exhaust Ventilation
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What is Occupational Hygiene?

- Occupational Hygiene is the science of worker health protection. It focuses on prevention and aims to protect people and keeping them healthy and safe at work.
- Through science and engineering, occupational hygienists identify, assess and control the risk from any health hazards that are in, or arise from, the workplace and lead to serious health diseases. These hazards include chemicals, dust, fumes, noise, vibration and extreme temperatures.
- Occupational hygienists aim to increase understanding of health risks in the working environment and advise on appropriate and practical control strategies to protect workers from serious illnesses like cancer, asthma, skin diseases and hearing loss.

Who are we?

- The leading authority in worker health protection, celebrating 70 years of being one of the world's leading scientific bodies on the identification, control and prevention of workplace ill-health.
- A **science-based, charitable body** that provides information, expertise and guidance in the recognition, control and management of workplace health risks.
- Founded in 1953. It is the **only professional society representing qualified occupational hygienists in the UK** and has over 1.400 members in 45 countries.
- The only occupational hygiene organisation to be awarded a Royal Charter: this was granted in April 2013 in recognition of BOHS' unique and pre-eminent role in worker health protection.
- The Royal Charter also means that BOHS is the only occupational hygiene organisation to offer the opportunity to achieve 'Chartered Occupational Hygiene' status through its professional development route.

Our Aims

- Work to eliminate harmful exposures;
- Promote safe and effective substitutes for existing hazards;
- Design out threats to human health;
- Manage out work practices that place people at risk;
- Ensure all people in all working environments have the right protection at the right time.

What we do

BOHS promotes the science and practice of occupational hygiene via:

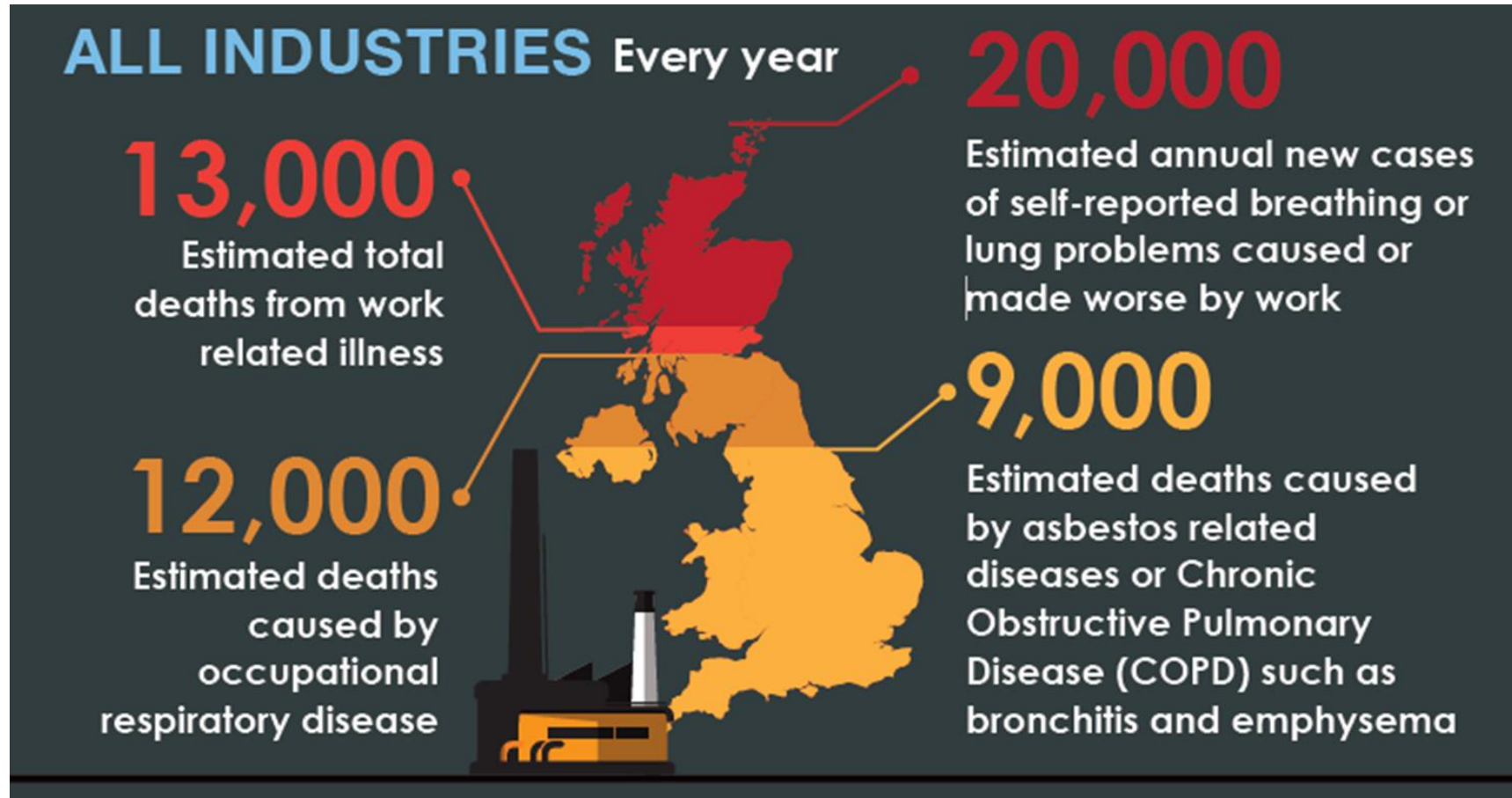
- **Membership:** provision of services and support to members
- **Faculty Membership:** Faculty of Occupational Hygiene ([FOH](#))- Chartered Membership and Faculty of Asbestos Assessment and Management ([FAAM](#)) supporting experienced professionals to achieve recognition in the industry and further develop their careers
- **Qualifications:** the provision of qualifications and competency schemes
- **The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals:** the UK's regulated professional register of individuals competent to practise Occupational Hygiene and provide the necessary advice and expertise to help protect the health of workers.

What we do

BOHS promotes the science and practice of occupational hygiene via:

- **Campaigns:** leadership of industry awareness campaigns
 - Breathe Freely in Construction
 - Breathe Freely in Manufacturing
- **Conferences & Events:** running of scientific conferences and events
- **Publishing:** of an academic journal and other scientific information
- **Policy and Technical:** scientific and technical representation to government, regulators and other bodies

UK Occupational Lung Disease Statistics

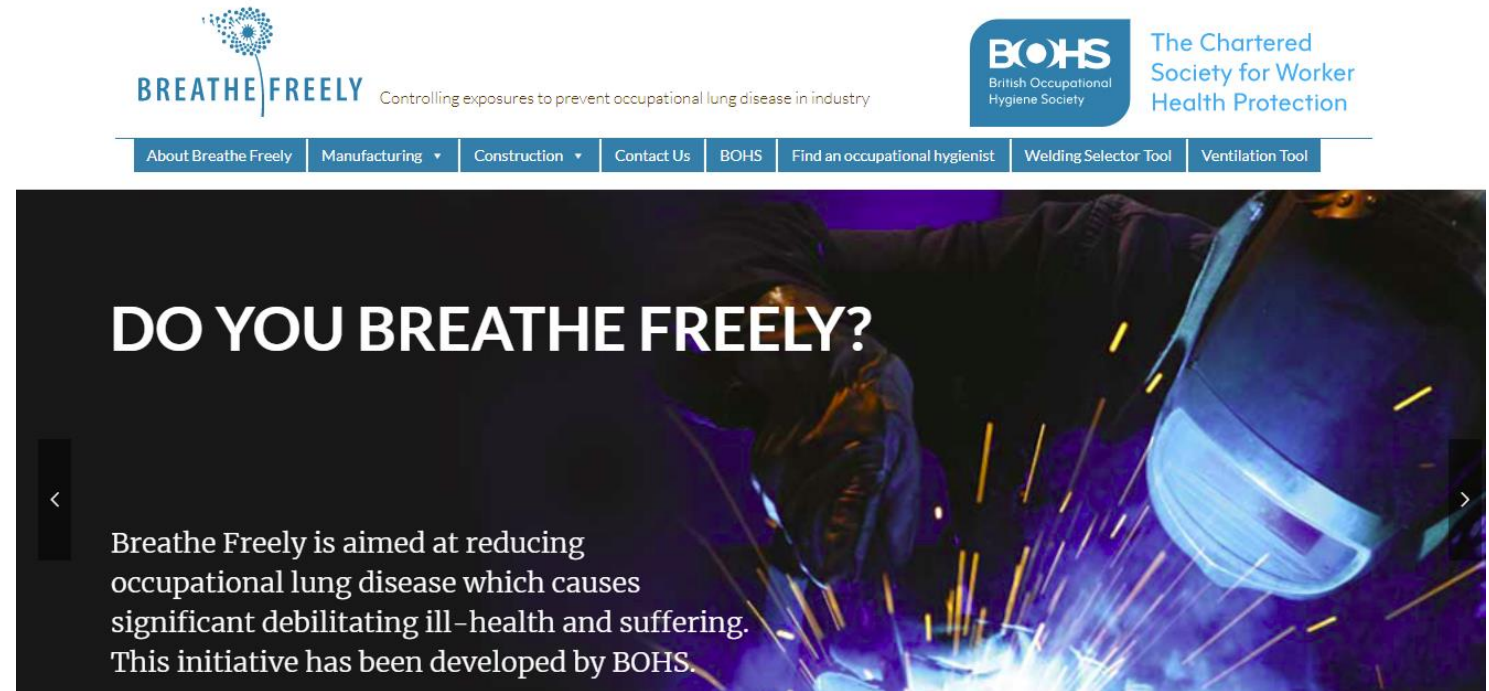


The Breathe Freely Campaign - Overview

- **Breathe Freely in Construction** offers guidance on various construction on-site health hazards such as • Silica dust • Asbestos • Lead • Wood and other dusts • Legionella and other biological agents • Diesel exhaust fumes
- **Breathe Freely in Manufacturing** has a focus on the key area of welding.

Breathe Freely Information Hub

- Web-based hub www.breathefreely.org.uk offering free guidance and tools to help protect employees by making sure hazards are recognised, risks are evaluated, and exposures are effectively controlled.
- All resources are free and can be downloaded- cases studies, check lists, toolbox talks etc.



Hierarchy of Control

- PPE is the last line of defense against exposure.
- PPE only protects the wearer, and only when specified and fitted correctly.
- PPE does not reduce the volume of contaminants in the air.

Welding Hierarchy of Control

There are many different measures that can be implemented to control exposure to hazardous substances. Inevitably, some are more effective than others and it is possible to develop a list of measures in order of priority - a "Hierarchy of Control".

Those measures towards the top of the hierarchy are normally considered to be most preferable.

In principle, anyone considering control techniques should start at the top of the list, considering each option in turn and deciding whether it is feasible.

The hierarchy is a useful tool, but it must be remembered that in most cases more than one measure will need to be implemented to properly control exposure.





The Chartered
Society for Worker
Health Protection

Thank you