

## **Toolbox Talk—Instructor Guide for Woodworkers**

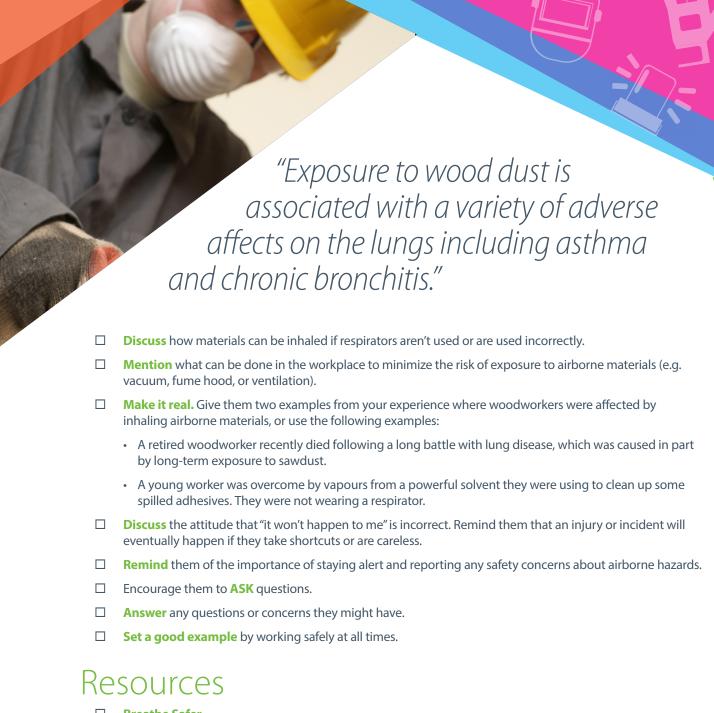
## Exposure to Airborne Contaminants **Topic Overview**

Many woodworking tasks produce airborne materials that can damage the lungs if inhaled. Some materials (like solvents and adhesives) are toxic, making workers feel sick immediately, while others cause long-term lung damage. Exposure to wood dust is associated with a variety of adverse effects on the lungs including asthma and chronic bronchitis.

## Demonstration and **Discussion Topics**

- **Distribute** the student handout. Use the student handout as your discussion guide.
- **Discuss** the types of hazards in the shop that may produce airborne materials, such as:
  - · vapours from adhesives and solvents
  - sawdust
- Tour the shop with the students, pointing out the hazards, and which type of respirator would be required
- **Explain** that the way to prevent airborne particles from being inhaled is to wear a respirator.
  - · There are different respirators for different types of particles. It is important to check that they are using the right respirator for the task at hand.
  - If there is a hazard of airborne material in their workplace, the employer is required by regulation to do a formal risk assessment and if necessary, have a respirator program.
  - If the workplace has a respirator program and the job requires the use of a respirator, the employer is required to provide workers with training and the appropriate type of respirator for the job they are doing.
  - Any task that requires a respirator also requires a written work procedure. The employer is responsible for ensuring that there is a written work procedure, and workers are responsible for following it once they have been trained. Annual fit tests and regular maintenance are also required.

EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS ■ EXPOSITION AUX CONTAMINANTS ATMOSPHÉRIQUES ◆



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