Toolbox Talk:

Maintaining Safe Airflow with Effective Ventilation

Fresh Air Is Vital

Your team cannot survive without a constant supply of clean fresh air.

Exposures

Without clean fresh air, workers could be exposed to dangerous levels of:

- Dust
- Fumes
- Gases
- Vapours

Important

If you are going to be working in an enclosed area with no fresh airflow, it is essential to conduct a risk assessment and ensure that you have suitable ventilation in place.

Serious Health Risks

Symptoms from inadequate fresh air includes:

- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness

Continuous overexposure can lead to serious long-term health problems such as:

- COPD
- Cancer

And acute toxicity can be instantly fatal.

Enclosed spaces- Hazardous Activities

If you are creating dust or fumes, it is likely that you will need an LEV system to extract the contaminants at source, as well as general ventilation to dilute residual contaminants and maintain good quality air.

Open Ended Tunnels

The most basic way to ventilate the entire length of an open-ended tunnel is to have a large axial fan placed inside the tunnel.

A centrifugal fan system could work even better, providing the airflow, pressure and positioning is correct.

Basements

Top-down construction is a methodology used to excavate a basement before building a superstructure on top.

To maintain good air quality, it is advisable to use diesel exhaust filter kits on the machinery, as well as supplying fresh air ventilation to the furthest point of each level to displace the contaminated or stale air.

Ventilation Shafts

If you are working in a tunnel or structure that has a ventilation shaft, it might be possible to create a venturi up the shaft.

Effective Solutions:

RVT supply temporary ventilation solutions for:

- **Tunnel Boring**
- **Confined Spaces**
- **Warehouses**
- **Aqueducts**
- **Utility Tunnels**
- **Railway Tunnels**
- **Culverts**
- **Welfare rooms**

And much more. An experienced ventilation expert, such as an RVT consultant, will be able to help assess your work area and calculate the ventilation requirements.

PLAY NOW

This Toolbox Talk is available as a video, watch it online now!

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