

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR WORKING ON CONTAMINATED LAND

1. Prior to carrying out any site work the company must assess the risk to its workers from various contaminants in order to decide the level of precautions required. The company when working as a sub-contractor must communicate with the client prior to visiting the site to ascertain the nature and location of any risk and the level of precautions recommended for site work. The company should also ascertain whether the client is providing any special measures to prevent or adequately control exposure to contamination, e.g. portable hygiene facility, disposable clothing etc.
2. On sites where there may be flammable gases, e.g. abandoned mine workings, landfill sites, a flammable gas detector must be used. Appropriate breathing apparatus must be used if working in confined spaces.
3. Workers must be aware of the risk of contact with overhead and underground cables when using the rig and equipment. A CAT detector must always be used prior to commencement of drilling. This should be done even if the client has already surveyed the site.
4. No smoking, eating or drinking is allowed on the contaminated site.
5. Appropriate clothing must be worn at all times on the contaminated site.
 - (a) Overalls - disposable overalls are to be preferred to washable overalls to avoid laundering problems. In either case sufficient quantities should be provided. PVC overalls present problems due to excessive perspiration, but have been found necessary when wet weather working. To prevent contaminants being retained in the overalls they should not have external pockets. To provide maximum protection the overalls should be close fitting at the ankles and cuffs, preferably elasticated and should incorporate a hood. Experience shows that when disposable overalls are used extra large sizes should be purchased in order to increase their life. Thermal clothing may be necessary in winter to avoid workers wearing their own jackets over their overalls.
 - (b) Footwear - safety wellingtons should be worn and the overalls pulled down on the outside of the footwear.
 - (c) Hand protection - disposable gloves should be worn at all times to protect against abrasion, skin damage and to prevent contaminants contacting the skin. With some contaminants impervious gloves will be required to prevent absorption through the skin.
 - (d) Respiratory protective equipment - where there is a potential exposure through inhalation then RPE should be provided. RPE must be judged "suitable" taking into account the type and concentration of substances, duration of exposure, and the manufacturers performance specification.
 - (e) Eye protection - eye protection from splashes may also be necessary.
 - (f) All personnel working within 10 m. of the rig should wear ear protectors.

6. Contaminated clothing should be placed in double-skin plastic bags and sealed before disposal or laundering. In the latter case the laundry should be advised on the contaminant involved.
7. Boots, vehicle wheels, tracks and equipment should be thoroughly washed before leaving the site.
8. No soils or wastes must be removed from the site.
9. After working in contact with toxic soils wash hands and forearms thoroughly with soap water and disinfectant provided. Make sure washing takes place after stripping contaminated clothing and boots.
10. Make a special point of washing any cut scratch or abrasion of the skin as soon as possible. Then apply antiseptic and sterile gauze or plaster.
11. Avoid rubbing nose and mouth with hands during work.
12. Report any illness immediately to your supervisor/director and seek medical attention.
13. Workers must submit themselves to health surveillance if deemed necessary by the company.

Additional Information Sources:

Guidance Notes for the Safe Drilling of Landfills and Contaminated Land. Published by: British Drilling Association (1992). Website: www.britishdrillingassociation.co.uk (and references therein).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This document is provided for guidance purposes only in order to promote the use of safe working practices when operating the rig. It is not intended that this document should replace any acts, codes, regulations or other documents which have a legal or contractual standing. In particular it must be noted that there is no intention within these guidance notes to negate any of the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, or other relevant safety standards, codes of practice and regulations that may apply in the country of use. It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to ensure that the equipment is maintained in a fit state of repair, that a full risk assessment is carried out and that operators are fully trained in the safe use of the equipment. Archway Engineering (UK) Ltd will not accept any responsibility for any accidents caused as a result of misuse or failure to maintain the equipment in good working order.