Occupational Hygiene & Occupational Health from a consultancy perspective

Diana Salmon
RGN, BSc(Hons), MSc, CertEd(PCET), SpDipEM
CFIoSH, CMFOH, MIIRSM
Working as Nurse, Occ.Hygienist and H&S professional

* Working as nurse but identifying Occ Hyg input required

* Working as Occ Hygienist but identifying OH input required

* Working as a H&S professional and requesting OH input
* Identify an employee requiring OH review

What do you do?
* Proactive – who do you speak to?
* Advise them to seek help?

Where do your responsibilities lie?
Who has the right to know?
Working as nurse but identifying Occupational Hygiene input is required

* Identify weaknesses in a H&S management system
  * Asset to company?
  * Creating work?
* RIDDOR?
* Whistle blow?
What would you do?

* HR request - dispute of contracted work hours, indicated this could end up at ET.
* 50yr old male
* Contracts manager in office of Print works
* Works standard 40 hour week
* Known to have developed asthma 5yrs ago; he puts this down to traffic fumes from daily commute.
On site

- poor H&S standards
  - No risk assessments
  - No obvious chemical management
  - No obvious controls, bar opening roller shutters
  - Etc., etc., etc.

But.....

- I’m not there as either Occ Hygienist or H&S professional!
On interviewing the affected individual:

* Claims journey affects asthma and working outside factory hours means he can remain healthy
* Admits going into factory to chase orders
* Does not associate asthma with work

But.....
My brief is to indicate if it is reasonable for him to start 2 hours earlier to avoid the rush hour.
**Dilemma**

- What do I write in report?
- Is my duty to the employer or the employee?

What would you do?
Working as a H&S professional and requesting OH input

* Minimal information provided
  * Fit/unfit,
  * RIDDOR,
  * control exposure,
  * rarely monitor exposure
The OH company’s perspective

- Issue is that of the referrer!
- H&S team in house
- Aware of a couple of Occ Hygienist to recommend to
- Not aware of BOHS consultant’s directory

- Lack of collaboration between professionals
- No appreciation of Occ Hygienists do
- No appreciation of what H&S professionals can’t do!!!!
Observations

* Poor standard of DSE assessments
* Ageing workforce
* OH payback

Costs of ill-health
* To employers - £2.8bn
* To the economy - £3.3bn
* To employees…….

£8bn
Thanks