

PRESS RELEASE

Manchester, 23/09/08 For Immediate Release.

Don't let Asbestos kill your workforce.

It's strongly recommended that asbestos surveys are carried out on all commercial buildings built before 1999. If you own or manage any non-domestic premises you are legally accountable for the safety of your building.

Although asbestos is now banned, the fibre can still be found in hundreds of thousands of buildings. It's estimated that more than 3,500 people die every year from asbestos-related diseases, and it's predicted that by the year 2020 asbestos will be responsible for at least 10,000 deaths a year. The illness can be contracted when asbestos is disturbed, (often during refurbishments and renovations) and the fibres are inhaled.

During October and November 2008 the Health and Safety Executive is launching a national campaign to target tradesmen who are at risk from exposure to asbestos. A pilot campaign was carried out in the North West earlier this year, and next month on October 13th it will go national.

The Trade Union Council's general secretary Brendan Barber comments, "Asbestos was the industrial plague of the 20th century and its legacy will plague the 21st century. Union campaigns rightly secured a national ban on asbestos, but no-one can afford to be complacent about the risks it still imposes. Managing the risks properly will prevent thousands of deaths."

A Greater Manchester based company which carries out thousands of surveys a year is Reddish Vale Asbestos Removal and Surveys. A survey may find there is no threat of asbestos in a building, but this check will have fulfilled the legal obligation of the proprietor or building manager.

Roy Tindall, Managing Director of Reddish Vale comments, "Mesothelioma, the cancer caused by the inhalation of asbestos fibres can take up to 40 years to develop but, once diagnosed, patients are given just nine to twelve months to live. Britain has the highest rate of the disease in the world. What employers do today will determine whether the asbestos epidemic gets better or worse. A survey can cost as little as a few hundred pounds, but can potentially save lives which is priceless."

For more information call 0161 688 6444 or check out www.reddishvale.co.uk.

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Notes to Editors:

Reddish Vale has been involved in the safe removal of asbestos, nationwide for over 20 years. From the initial survey, through to removal and encapsulation they can advise on all sizes of project large and small. They are members of the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) and hold a full asbestos removal license issued by the Health & Safety Executive. They are also registered with the Environment Agency as a carrier of 'controlled waste.'