

CELANESE ENGINEERING RESINS, INC.
Chemcel Plant
Bishop, Texas

To: Mr. G. Illa

August 29, 1986

From: J. H. Pritchard

JHP-45-86

ASBESTOS MONITORING FOLLOWING A SPILL
IN THE FILLED RESINS UNIT

ABSTRACT

On August 20, 1986, while making an asbestos blend in the Filled Resins Unit, a spill of approximately 280 pounds of asbestos occurred. Subsequent personnel and area monitoring of the Filled Resins and Special Products areas indicate no significant exposures to asbestos for the five-day period following the spill.

Uniters:

Area
Asbestos
Bishop
Filled Resins
Monitoring
OSHA
Personnel
Special Products
Spill
1986

Distribution:

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C. R. DeRose
H. W. Hill
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L. L. Bennett
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R. G. Hilbrich
E. A. Thomas
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CCTC:

Central Files (2) ✓

Lab File No.: 265.0

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SUMMARY

On August 20, 1986, while making an asbestos blend in the Filled Resins Unit, a spill of approximately 280 pounds of asbestos occurred. Subsequent personnel and area monitoring of the Filled Resins and Special Products areas indicate no significant exposures to asbestos for the five-day period following the spill.

INTRODUCTION

An asbestos blend was made on August 20, 1986, in the Filled Resins Unit. Subsequently it was discovered that the asbestos dump chamber (6th floor, Bldg. 533) was not connected to the MX322 ribbon blender (5th floor, Bldg. 533). As a result, 8 bags (280 lbs.) of asbestos were spilled, covering the ribbon blender, beams, ledges, and floor with asbestos. Initial clean-up procedures began with the shoveling and vacuuming of the asbestos.

DISCUSSION

Upon notification of the spill, Laboratory personnel began collecting personnel and area air samples. By this time the major part of the initial clean-up had been completed, and the area was "washed down". This caused asbestos to be carried to the lower floors, and the outside of Bldg. 533. At this point, all personnel working in and passing through buildings 639 and 533 were required to wear respiratory protection. Warning signs were erected at outside entrances to the buildings and the adjacent warehouse areas.

Air sampling was conducted for five days following the spill to assess the potential hazard to personnel working in the Filled Resins and adjacent Special Products areas. A total of eight personnel, twenty-two area, and two bulk samples were collected. Analysis, by phase contrast microscopy, was performed by National Loss Control Service Corp. (NATLSCO), Long Grove, Illinois. Analytical results are attached.

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August 29, 1986

RESULTS

All air samples showed significantly below the OSHA TWA (time-weighted average) standard of 0.2 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc) and the OSHA action level of 0.1 f/cc. The highest personal exposure detected was 0.05 f/cc TWA, collected on the Filled Resins extruder helper. It should be noted that Filled Resins personnel were running asbestos filled material on MS409 during this time period. Area sampling results ranged from <0.01 f/cc to a high of 0.02 f/cc TWA, collected in the Filled Resins Environmental Room. One bulk sample, scraped off the outside of Bldg. 533, showed 10% asbestos in binder material. A second bulk sample, taken from the Bldg. 533 freight elevator, showed no asbestos present.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the asbestos spill, five days of air monitoring has shown that no health hazard exists for personnel working in the Filled Resins, Special Products, or adjacent areas.

Prompt notification of SHE Department personnel in such instances allows appropriate measures to be taken that will ensure the safety and health of all personnel involved.


J.H. Pritchard

JHP/erg

Attachments

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