

ASBESTOS DUST INHALATION

May 5 and 6 Conference

Information presented showed asbestos dust inhalation to be a more serious hazard than has previously been realized. High concentrations* of asbestos dust occur when handling pipe and tank insulation, particularly removing old insulation. These concentrations can cause Fibrosis (Asbestosis), Pulmonary Carcinoma and Mesothelioma (Cancer) to the lungs or chest cavity. Statistically, cigarette smokers are most susceptible.

Haskell Laboratory is conducting an evaluation of the health problems related to handling asbestos. The evaluation will be complete and published within the next few months. Information presented below is recommended to be used by our plants as a guide in establishing safe work procedures until more complete information is available.

Guidelines are:

- Asbestos workers should be given a pulmonary function test as part of employee's normal physical examination. Followup testing is recommended every year. The Jones Pulmonor Function Testing Machine is recommended (approximately \$230.00). Additional information can be obtained from Wilmington Medical.
 - Inform employees working with asbestos insulation of the related health problems. This should be handled without unduly alarming people.
 - Substitute other types of insulation for asbestos when practical.
 - Prevent unnecessary dust through careful handling when opening cartons, etc.
 - Provide a separate room for primary sawing operation. Enclose electric cutoff saws with clear lucite. An industrial type vacuum cleaner attached to the saw with disposable bags for burying is helpful. Clean room with vacuum often, using dust respirator for personal protection.
 - Wet old insulation before removing and wear a MSA Dustfoe 77 Respirator.
- * Five fibers/ML of air is considered to be a safe limit in a work area for 8 hours.

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