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AIRBORNE ASBESTOS:

FROM NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

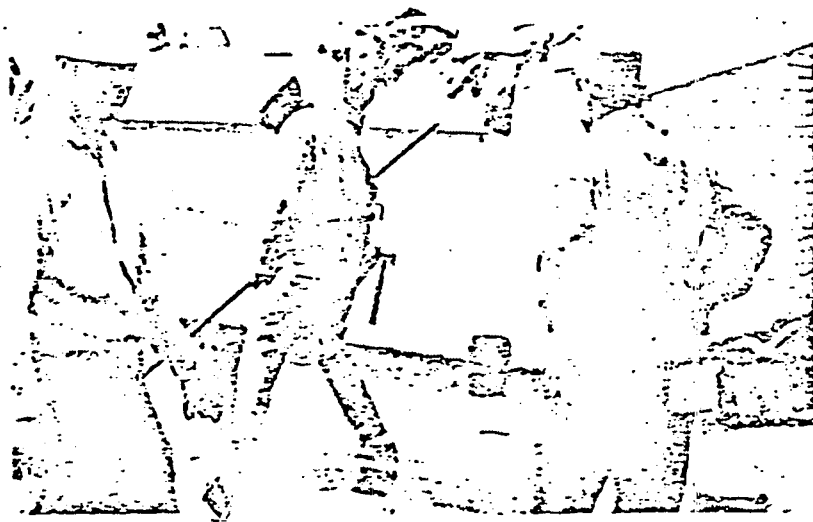
Test Results

NEWSLETTER.

- Johns-Manville and NRCA find some encouraging data -

If you are a close OSHA-watcher, you know that last year the Feds issued an "emergency" standard covering airborne asbestos. This standard calls for a maximum of 5 fibers per cubic centimeter in all workplaces. The standard is scheduled to be tightened to 2 fibers in 1975.

NRCA was concerned that there might be a release of asbestos fibers from the handling of asbestos felts. Johns-Manville has been most cooperative in scheduling testing to determine the amount of asbestos released from the



Mop, Roll and Hot Men were Equipped with Testing Devices

Filter Canisters were Pinned to the Men's Shirt Fronts



handling of asbestos felts on the roof.

The most recent test was conducted in May at a school job in Hobart, Indiana. D. R. Christensen of J-M's Environmental Control Division conducted the air sampling, using six battery powered testing units. These units consist of a battery pack and air pump, attached by a rubber hose to a filter canister. The air filter is a cellulose-ester material with a pore size of 0.8 microns. Air is pumped through this filter, thereby trapping dust and fibers on the filter. Later, in the

The filter material is designed to catch only the dust and fibers. Asbestos fibers are counted on a system, using a conventional optical microscope. Only asbestos fibers longer than 5 microns are considered harmful by OSHA.

Three of the testers were set up on the roof, downwind from the roofing work. The mop man, roll man, and hot man each had a tester hooked to his belt with the filter canister pinned to his shirt front. Results of the testing were as follows:

Location	Asbestos Fibers Per Cubic Centimeter
Mop Man	0.1
Roll Man	0.1
Hot Man	0.2
Downwind No. 1	0.1
Downwind No. 2	0.4
Downwind No. 3	0.1

The relatively high reading at the No. 2 Downwind Station is interpreted to be caused by normal statistical variation. The results are accurate with a tolerance of $\pm 25\%$.

A previous test at a roofing job on the University of Wisconsin Parkside Campus yielded similar results: three me-

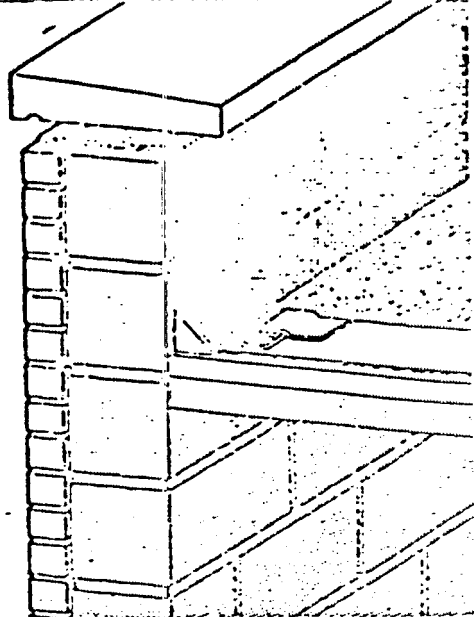
chanics had readings of 0.3 fibers, 0.2 fibers, and 0.2 fibers, with stationary locations all reading 0.1 fibers.

On the basis of this data, it appears that we have no problem whatsoever in handling asbestos felts. Tear-off jobs show higher figures but are still within the 1975 standard.

Following are the results of a test conducted at a tear-off job on a St. Regis Paper Co. facility in Bridgeview, Ill.:

Location	Asbestos Fibers Per Cubic Centimeter
Tear-off Machine Operator	1.6
Pick-up Man No. 1	1.5
Pick-up Man No. 2	0.8
Shovel Man	1.4
Tractor Operator	1.7
Chute Man	1.3

This job generated moderate to heavy visible dust, found to consist mostly of fiberglass insulation fibers. It is interesting to note that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is currently considering a criteria document for fiberglass dust exposure. We may well have a problem on tear-off jobs in the future. ○ ○ ○



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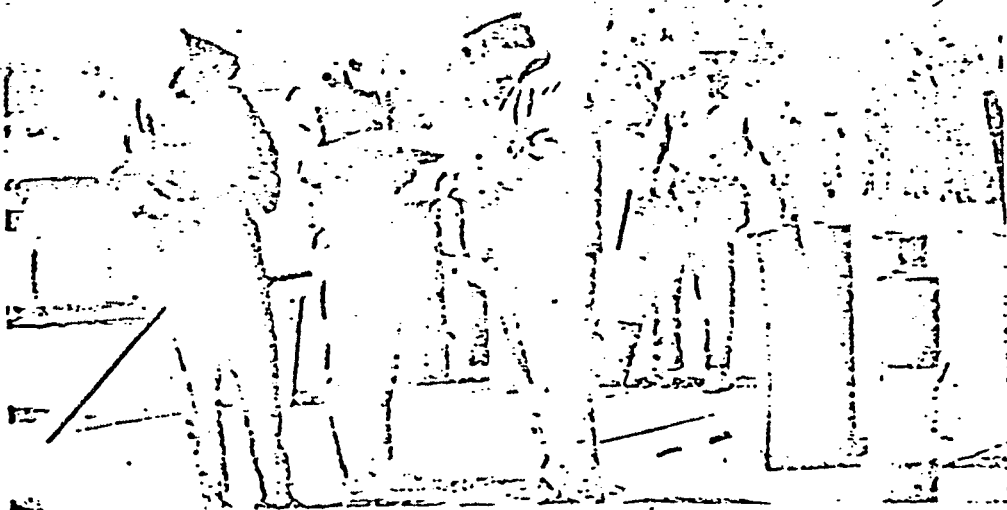
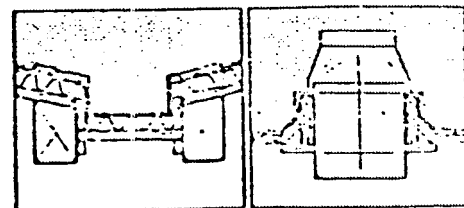
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Results of the Hobart, Ind. test indicate that asbestos felts present no problem for OSHA compliance.