

June 14, 1973

C. MATISON
INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS DEPARTMENT
REPAIRO PLANT

ASBESTOS SURVEY

On 6/6/73, air samples were taken to determine asbestos concentrations at a number of operations using asbestos-containing materials. The results are shown on the accompanying table.

An approved air purifying respirator was worn by the insulator during asbestos removal operations. Except for one case, the insulation being removed was wet. The wetness was a result of deteriorated gaskets in the flange or valve. All removal was done out-of-doors and the insulator at all times tried to keep up-wind of the operation. The total time for samples 1 and 2 (about 20 minutes) is the average that any one insulator would spend removing asbestos materials. Removed asbestos was placed in paper or plastic bags at the operation site. This should be a regular procedure for all insulators, but plastic bags that are sealed would better control the hazard.

In preparing the valve cover mat - fiber glass between asbestos cloth - little dust was created from cutting or handling either material. Welders in the next bay complained that with the building doors open, fiber glass was blown toward them causing skin irritation. It may be necessary to keep the doors closed or else employ a barrier to keep complaints down. Immediate vacuuming of the work benches may also keep loose dust to a minimum.

The dust created during the hand sawing of asbestos pipe covers tended to be heavy and dropped readily into the waste barrel. I have reservations about the wetting procedure used on the pipe covers when handled. The spray action tends to disperse the loose dust at the same time that it is wetting the surface of the cover. When I originally suggested wetting the asbestos prior to handling and cutting, I was thinking of a tubular tank with water in which the insulation could be dunked.

Considering all of the daily operations where asbestos is handled, neither the ceiling (10 fibers/ml) nor the time-weighted average (5 fibers/ml) would have been exceeded. However, respirators will have to be used in asbestos removal operations.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
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RM/jed
enclosure



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