Engineering/Work Practices

The potential of asbestos fibers becoming airborne is greatly reduced by applying a fine water mist to the insulation. Surfactants and other wetting agents have been used to enhance water penetration.

Plastic hut enclosures have been used during operations to contain asbestos and to protect nearby employees. This was a logical progression for the plant since this technique has been successfully used to control the spread of radioactive materials. For large operations, the enclosure is exhausted through a high efficiency particulate filter.

Airlocks have also been used for asbestos operations to separate regulated areas from the nonregulated areas. It is an important line of defense in controlling the spread of asbestos. Separate change stations are used to prevent contamination of street clothing from work clothing.

A vacuum cleaner is used with a high efficiency particulate air filter to remove loose insulation following a job.

Asbestos waste is placed in double walled impermeable bags, labeled as containing asbestos and sent to the plant asbestos landfill in accordance with EPA requirements.

Personal Protective Equipment

Each employee who is authorized to handle asbestos is also given annual respirator training and a quantitative fit test. The respirator training includes a videotape review of the reasons for and proper use of respirators. A technician gives the asbestos worker hands-on training in the proper method of donning a respirator and performing the negative or positive pressure functional fit test.

A quantitative fit test is given to the employee to ensure the proper choice of respirators. The employee and his supervisor are given a card indicating which respirators the employee can wear.

At the plant, breathing air compressors are easily accessible to personnel since much of the radioactive work requires supplied air suits. Depending upon the nature of the job, supplied air or negative pressure respirators are required.

DUP 0908881