

FILE NAME: Pennsylvania (PA)

DATE: 1966-1967

DOC#: PA032

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: PA Govt Inspection Results Related to Benjamin Foster

PA State gov

Benjamin Foster Co

- 1966 – letter from US Dept HEW describes Asbestos attached references
- 1967 dust counts
 - 5below 5 MPPCF
 - Others 6.0, 9.6, 16.0, 33.4
- Respirators discussed
- Employees sent for chest x-ray
- 12/67 dust counts improved 1.4 – 4.6 MPPCF

Benjamin Foster Co.

1966 - letter from US Dept.
HEW describes A's 15,
att. references

1967 - dust counts

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others: 6.0, 9.6, 16.0, 33.4

- respirators discussed

- employees sent for chest
x-rays

12/67 dust counts improved,
1.4-4.6 MPPCF



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Occupational Health Research & Training Facility
Bureau of State Services
1714 Broadway
Cincinnati, 2, Ohio

December 8, 1966

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Please refer to folder
please
Borey
copy to Reg 7
Suz

Mr. W. P. Ellis
Director of Research
Benjamin Foster Company
4635-37 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

Dear Mr. Ellis:

This letter is in response to your request for published information on the subject of the occupational hazard of asbestos fiber just as an atmospheric air pollutant.

The name, asbestos, is used to cover a group of fibrous mineral silicates. Many studies have been reported in the literature and there is indication that the inhalation of significant amounts of asbestos dust over an extended period of time can produce in certain individuals a respiratory disorder, a pneumoconiosis referred to as asbestosis. This occupational disease is characterized primarily by cough, dyspnea, basal crackles, and reticulonodular shadowing of the chest roentgenogram. There are also reports of chronic bronchitis and emphysema that may be associated with this disease, the emphysema being of a more localized than a diffused obstructive type. There are also reports of incidents of lung carcinoma associated with asbestosis. The most consistent pathological change is a dense fibrosis containing macrophages with absorbed dust particles which in many areas obliterates the pulmonary architecture. However, there is controversy among investigators studying the inhalation of asbestos, particularly as to the reality and severity of the problem and whether or not all types of asbestos produce such reactions in the body. Studies and surveys of asbestos exposure have been hindered to some extent by the lack of good specific techniques for the sampling and determination of asbestos concentrations in the air. Therefore, our information is not nearly as complete or precise as would be desirable. Because of these many factors, the Division of Occupational Health has recently undertaken the study of the health and environmental conditions of workers handling asbestos. The investigation will include the environmental and medical aspects of the disease but these studies are expected to take many years, for asbestosis is a chronic, slowly-developing disease, therefore it will be quite some time before the studies are completed and the findings become available.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists has adopted threshold limit values (TLV's) for many substances found in industry. For asbestos the TLV is 3 million particles per cubic foot of air, a time-weighted average exposure for a normal eight-hour workday. To determine whether or not a health hazard does exist in a given

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Bureau of State Services
1714 Broadway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
7715-0000

- 1 -

Mr. W. F. Ellis -- December 8, 1968

work area an environmental health study should be made by an industrial hygienist. After such a study he could make recommendations for control measures, if needed. You may wish to call upon the official industrial hygiene agency in your area for their professional guidance and assistance which is available to you. The address of this agency is: Division of Occupational Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120. This organization also has a regional office in the State Office Building, Broad and Spring Garden Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130 (Telephone: 669-4000; Ext. 3174). There is also a local health department agency for the City of Philadelphia. Its address is: Occupational and Radiological Health Section, Division of Environmental Health, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, 800 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146 (Telephone: MU 6-5185).

We are enclosing a relatively short list of references on asbestosis. We would particularly point out the third reference from the bottom of page 3 entitled: The Biological Effects of Asbestos, published in the Annals of the New York Academy of Science. This is quite a lengthy publication and covers many aspects of asbestos. The last article by Morris Kleinfield is one of the more recent articles pertaining to the effect of asbestos dust inhalation on lung function.

We hope the information furnished will be helpful and if we can be of any further service we shall be glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

cc: Pennsylvania Department of Health
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Region II Program Director



EMMORILL:grb

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350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0000
PA Historical & Educational Commission

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

REGION VII
PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE
adhesives and coatings
DATE OF ACTIVITY 8-6-67

FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

EMPLOYEES	COUNTY
MALE <u>45</u>	<u>Phila.</u>
FEMALE <u>5</u>	INC. CODE
TOTAL <u>50</u>	<u>28</u>

PLANT
Foster Company, Benjamin
ADDRESS
4635 W. Girard Ave., Phila. ZIP 19131 PHONE _____
PERSON INTERVIEWED
Mr. E. Dugery TITLE
Asst. superintendent

PURPOSE: INVEST.: INSPECT.: PRELIM.: F.U.: CONF.: VISIT: _____

REASON: SELF-INIT.: O.D. REP.: COMPL.: REQUEST: SOURCE _____

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS		ACCOMPLISHED		
		<u>8-17-67</u>	WRITTEN --- VERBAL	YES	NO	IN PROG.
asbestos	10-12	1. USEM respirators		X		
		2. Maintain respirators		X		
		3. Modify LEV on mixers A. change opening position		X		
		B. change charging procedure				
		4. Housekeeping program				X
		5. Chest X Ray program				X
TOTAL				X		

SAMPLES COLLECTED (NO. & KIND) _____

DETERM. MADE (NO. & KIND) _____

MEDICAL - O.D. REPORTED, NO. & KIND _____

PUNCH CARD

YES

NO

FOLDER

YES

NO

REMARKS:

Respirators approved for toxic dusts and organic vapors are supplied to the men, who are periodically reminded to clean them, change filters, etc.

A new covered chute for charging dry materials into mixer has been designed. Bags have to be slit open inside the chute, which fits snugly into the mixer openings. This increases the effectiveness of the LEV. Mr. Dugery said the LEV system will eventually be reworked, but not right away.

A major clean-up operation is in progress. In some places, 2 or 3 inches of asphalt-asbestos "gook" has been chipped off the floor. All storage areas have been swept out. (Two industrial vacuums are on order, haven't come yet) All material in bags is now blown off before it enters the plant and kept on pallets in an attempt to reduce breakage. Open or broken bags are to be used first. Overhead structures will be cleaned with the vacuum cleaner. One Saturday men wore respirators and blew out rafters with air hoses, then swept it off the floor, but this got too messy. Mr. Dugery said it will be a slow process, no cleaning has been done for 20 years. Workers are not enthusiastic about having to spend the extra minutes to be careful, but from the appearance of the mixing area, they are doing a good job. Mr. Dugery said "come back in 6 months".

All new employees are sent for chest x-rays. Starting right after vacation season, workers will be driven by carload into Center City for an X Ray. Mr. Dugery says hopefully the men will encourage their families to go also.

A reserve will be done to determine the effectiveness of the control measures.

Signature of an Official (Name)

Print Name

By P. K. Bradley

PA STATE ARCHIVES

820 North Second, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0002

DATE 1-5

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

EMPLOYEES

REGION VII

PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE

adhesives and coatings

DATE 6/16/67

PLANT

Foster Company, Benjamin

ADDRESS

4635 W. Girard Avenue, Phila., Pa. 19131

PERSON INTERVIEWED W. A. Keal

TITLE Plt. Supt.

PURPOSE: INVEST.; SURVEY; INSPECT.; PRELIM.; F.U.; CONF. VISIT:

REASON: SELE.INIX.; O.D. REP.; COMPL.; REQUEST; SOURCE

30 day reply requested

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCOMPLISHED		
			YES	NO	IN PROG.
<u>Asbestos</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>5/17/67 R</u>			
		<u>WRITTEN - VERBAL</u>			
		1. USBM respirators			X
		2. Maintain respirators			X
		3. Modify LEV on mixers			X
		a. change opening position			
		b. change charging procedure			
		4. Housekeeping program			X
		5. Chest X-ray program			X

SAMPLES COLLECTED (NO. & KIND) TOTAL

DETERM. MADE (NO. & KIND) TOTAL

MEDICAL O.D. REPORTED. NO. & KIND

REMARKS Letter received indicating compliance with recommendations, will be confirmed by a personal

visit. Letter states that ventilation at the mixers BY P. Bradley (O) LTG

PUNCH CARD YES NO FOLDER YES NO (over)

has been increased and loading procedures have been improved. Approved respirators are in use, and maintenance is being enforced. A cleaning program has been initiated. New employees are being sent for lung examinations and all employees will be examined annually.

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SECTION

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Benjamin Foster Company
4635 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

3. Institute a program of preplacement and annual chest X-ray examinations for all employees exposed to dust.

Please notify this office within 30 days of the steps you are taking to carry out these recommendations. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Our Hygienic Information Guides entitled "Asbestos" and "Personal Respiratory Protective Equipment", our booklet entitled "Dust" and Article 432, as revised, are enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Leon T. Gonshor
Regional Industrial Hygienist

LIG:PB:rw

Enclosures (4)

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520 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0001
PA Historical & Museum Commission

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Table

Dust Concentrations

Benjamin Foster Company
4635 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Location	Dust* (millions of particles per cubic foot of air)	Remarks
Batch mixing room	11.8 511.6	General air, no charging
	4.1	General air, right after charging large mixer
	3.9 6.0	Charging mixers, not all asbestos
	2.6	Operator's breathing zone, starting charging operation
	9.6 16.0	Operator's breathing zone, charging asbestos into mixer
	33.4	Operator's breathing zone, charging P-134 (mica)

*Threshold limit value for asbestos-containing dust, based on exposure for an 8-hour working day - 5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

Survey by

Patricia Bradley
Industrial Hygienist

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

EMPLOYEES	45	COUNTY	Philadelphia
MALE	5	IND. CODE	2800
FEMALE	50		
TOTAL			

REGION VII
 PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE adhesives & coating
 DATE OF ACTIVITY 4/26/67

FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

PLANT Foster Company, Benjamin
 ADDRESS 4635 W. Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, Penna. ZIP 19131 PHONE _____
 PERSON INTERVIEWED Edward Dugery TITLE Assistant superintendent

PURPOSE: survey
 INVEST.; INSPECT.; PRELIM.; F.U.; CONF.; VISIT;

REASON: SELF-INIT.; O.D. REP.; COMPL.; REQUEST; SOURCE

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCOMPLISHED		
		WRITTEN --- VERBAL	YES	NO	IN PROG.
Asbestos	10-12	1. USEM respirators			
		2. Maintain respirators			
		3. Modify LEV on mixers			
		a. change opening position			
		b. change charging procedure			
		4. Housekeeping program			
		5. Chest X-ray program			

SAMPLES COLLECTED 9 Impinger TOTAL 9
 (NO. & KIND)

DETERM. MADE 9 Asbestos dust - 1 blank TOTAL 10
 (NO. & KIND)

MEDICAL - O.D. REPORTED, NO. & KIND _____

PUNCH CARD YES NO FOLDER YES 1 NO

REMARKS:
 Survey done at mixing operation. Worker's exposed to various kinds of dust, asbestos mica, silica, antimony, trichloride, limestone and gypsum. I.H. attempted to sample while asbestos was being charged into mixer, or at least find out what was being charged while the sample was taken. USEM respirators approved for toxic dusts and organic vapors were diligently worn by employees while charging, several obviously for the I.H.'s benefit.
 Charging may take as long as 1 hour for the large mixer, twice every 3 days. The smaller mixers take less time to charge and are used less frequently.

C.O.
December 14, 1967

Benjamin Foster Company
4635 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

Attention: Mr. W. H. Kaal

Gentlemen:

A survey to reevaluate employees' exposures to asbestos-containing dust at the mixer charging operation was conducted on December 5, 1967 with the cooperation of Mr. D. Chew, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Kaal. Following a previous survey conducted on April 26, 1967, modifications were made at this operation.

Samples of airborne dust were collected with midget impingers containing 95 percent ethyl alcohol. Dust concentrations were determined from these samples using a standardized light filed microscopic technique and are presented in the attached table.

Exposures to asbestos-containing dust were less than the threshold limit value during charging operations (see table). The enclosed chute appeared to capture much of the dust generated while charging the mixers. Housekeeping is much improved throughout the plant. It should be noted, however, that dust levels may be expected to vary from time to time. Because of this, the following recommendations are made.

1. Continue your present program of preplacement and annual chest X-ray examinations for all employees exposed to dust.
2. Continue to require that approved respirators be worn during charging operations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Leon T. Gonshor
Regional Industrial Hygienist

LTI/der

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800 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0000

PA Historical & Museum Commission

12-13-67

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Dust Concentrations

Benjamin Foster Company
4435 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Location	Dust* (millions of particles per cubic foot of air)	Remarks
Batch mixing room	2.2	General air, no charging
	1.9	Operator's breathing zone, start of charging operation
	4.5	Operator's breathing zone, charging asbestos into mixer
	1.4	General air, after charg- ing large mixer

* Threshold limit value for asbestos-containing dust, based on exposure for an 8-hour working day—5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

Survey by:

Patricia Bradley
Industrial Hygienist

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MH-19003.1 REV. 1/67
 REGION VII
 PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE _____
adhesives
 DATE OF ACTIVITY 12/5/67

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

EMPLOYEES	COUNTY
MALE <u>45</u>	<u>Phila.</u>
FEMALE <u>5</u>	IND. CODE
TOTAL <u>50</u>	<u>28</u>

PLANT
Benjamin Foster Company
 ADDRESS
4635 W. Girard Ave., Phila. 19131
 PERSON INTERVIEWED
W. Kaal Donald Chew
 TITLE
Plant Supt., Asst. Supt.

PURPOSE: INVEST.: INSPECT.: PRELIM.: F.U.: CONF.: VISIT: _____
 REASON: SELF-INIT.: O.D. REP.: COMPL.: REQUEST: SOURCE: _____

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS		ACCOMPLISHED		
		WRITTEN	VERBAL	YES	NO	IN PROG.
<u>asbestos</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>1. Continue x-ray progress</u>				
		<u>2. Continue to wear respirators during charging</u>				

SAMPLES COLLECTED _____ TOTAL _____
(NO. & KIND)

DETERM. MADE _____ TOTAL _____
(NO. & KIND)

MEDICAL - O.D. REPORTED, NO. & KIND _____

PUNCH CARD YES NO FOLDER YES NO

REMARKS:

Resurvey to determine effectiveness of modifications to charging procedures. Conditions is were much less dusty than during previous survey. Several large in bags of asbestos had to be dumped directly into floor opening, worker shook bag completely with LEV hood, dust appeared to be well captured. Then an enclosed chute is shoved into opening, fits tightly. Worker slits asbestos bag, shakes it down chute. Some dust still is visible, but most is captured by LEV. Workers area, charging mixer or handling empty bags, wore approved respirators which were clean and in good condition.

Mr. Chew has replaced Mr. Dugery, is too new to know just what is being done. He appears to be quite a "bug" on housekeeping, said he will have out what happened to the vacuum cleaner on order. Several workers have been sent for chest x-rays, the rest will be sent soon.

Dust levels turned out low, 4.6 mppcf during charging less than 3 mppcf with no charging.

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 PA Historical & Museum Commission

P. K. Bradley RIM LTG
 (12.)
 WINS _____

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OA-502 5-65

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

12/11/67

TO

FROM

E. J. Bowen

J. Sanchez

Review & return: Duot Savoy

B. Foster Co.
Phila.

S. F. Reg. 12/15/67
mld. to Ho

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REGION VII

PROG. MFG. OR SERVICE _____

adhesives & coatings

DATE 10/23/67

PLANT _____

Foster Company, Benjamin

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

EMPLOYEES
MALE 45 Phila.
FEMALE 5
TOTAL 50 28

ADDRESS
4635 W. Girard Ave., Phila. 19131

PERSON INTERVIEWED W.H. Karl TITLE Plant Supt.

PURPOSE: INVEST.; SURVEY; INSPECT.; PRELIM.; F.U.; CONF.; VISIT; _____

REASON: SEL. INIT.; O.D. REP.; COMPL.; REQUEST; SOURCE _____

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCOMPLISHED		
			YES	NO	IN PROG.
<u>asbesto</u>	<u>10-12</u>	<u>Housekeeping program</u>			<u>X</u>

PA STATE ARCHIVES

200 North 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0000
PA Historical & Museum Commission

SAMPLES COLLECTED _____ TOTAL _____
INO. & KINDI _____

DETERM. MADE _____ TOTAL _____
INO. & KINDI _____

MEDICAL _____ O.D. REPORTED. NO. & KIND _____

REMARKS M. Dugery has resigned, is no longer with the company. A recovery was planned, but

the large mixer was not being loaded and the smaller onesy P.K. Bradley LTG

PUNCH CARD YES NO FOLDER YES NO (over) .5

would not be handling asbestos. Mr. K. checked the order slips, said a large batch would be mixed on Thursday, call before coming and he could even tell us what time. A telephone call Thurs. 10/26/67 revealed that the mixer had been loaded last night.

An attempt will be made to conduct the survey next week.



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100 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

EMPLOYEES

REGION VII

PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE

Adhesives & coatings 28

FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

MALE 45 Phila

FEMALE 5

TOTAL 50 28

DATE 10/3/67

PLANT

Foster Company, Benjamin

ADDRESS

4653 W. Girard Avenue, Phila., Pa. 19131

PERSON INTERVIEWED Mr. E. Dugery

TITLE Assistant Superintendent

PURPOSE: INVEST.; SURVEY; INSPECT.; PRELIM.; F.U.; CONF. VISIT:

REASON: SELF-INIT.; O.D. REP.; COMPL.; REQUEST; SOURCE

215 - TR 8-8500

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	DATE	RECOMMENDATIONS		ACCOMPLISHED		
			WRITTEN	VERBAL	YES	NO	IN PROG.
asbestos	10-12	5/17/67	1	Housekeeping program			X
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SAMPLES COLLECTED (NO. & KIND) PA STATE ARCHIVES TOTAL

DETERM. MADE (NO. & KIND) PA State Archives, Harrisburg, PA 17104-0000 TOTAL

MEDICAL PA Industrial & Marine Commission O.D. REPORTED, NO. & KIND

REMARKS A visit was made to conduct a re-survey following compliance with our recommendations.

(Over) BY P. Bradley (0.5) LTC
PUNCH CARD YES NO FOLDER YES NO 10/6/67

However, no adhesives containing asbestos or other solid materials were being mixed. A telephone call on 10/4/67 to Mr. Dugery revealed that a mixer had broken down, little if any further mixing would be done this week. Survey will be scheduled for the near future.

A quick walk through the plant indicates housekeeping is still

However, no adhesives containing asbestos or other solid materials were being mixed. A telephone call on 10/4/67 to Mr. Dugery revealed that a mixer had broken down, little if any further mixing would be done this week. Survey will be scheduled for the near future.

A quick walk through the plant indicates housekeeping is still improving.

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OCT 19 1967
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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SECTION

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REASON: SELF-SPECIFIC HAZ

CONDITION

Asbestos

SAMPLES COLLECTED (NO. & KIND)

DETERM. MADE (NO. & KIND)

MEDICAL - O.D. IN

PUNCH CARD

REMARKS:

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A ne to be all the effec but not i

A (two) find off before or broken cleaner. It off th cleaning the extra doing a E

All workers w the men w

A re