



# Asbestos 101

This newsletter is on the MDE web site: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/asbestos>

October, 2009

## EDITOR'S NOTES . . .

### FREE HELP FOR SCHOOLS!

Providing asbestos documentation assistance to the small schools has been a challenge for this agency. Help us, help you- come! We will be offering four dates, to be announced, in April 2010 at the following locations: Western MD Hospital Center – Hagerstown; MDE HQ – Baltimore; Horn Point – Cambridge; and Charles County Board of Education - La Plata. This is an opportunity to bring your asbestos documents and make sure that your documents meet AHERA standards. Don't worry - we want to make it easy for you to comply - these help sessions will not trigger an inspection of your school. Our experts are here to help and to sit down with you, one-on-one, to go over your documents and help you bring them up to date and answer any questions you may have about satisfying the asbestos requirements. This is particularly helpful to those schools that have done nothing yet. We will provide forms, copies of the regulations, and other publications to assist you. There will be no formal presentation at the workshops, just assistance focusing on small schools.

## TRAINING PROVIDERS . . .

There are Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) approved training providers who conduct accredited asbestos training courses. A training provider meeting will be held on November 10 at the MDE Stat Room from 10:00 to noon. We will be discussing the training provider application forms once again and the proposed changes to the regulations. If you have any subject that you would like to discuss, please contact Larry Vermont.

On the training provider applications, please list all of the courses that are being submitted on page one. Do not provide a separate page one for each course. You also do not need to pay for each course separately; the fees may be combined into one check. As long as you send the page one, properly filled out, with the check to the lockbox there will be no problems for you or us. Also, if you are applying for more than one course per application, the questions concerning the training schedule and how photo identification cards are issued and secured must be addressed and a separate page is not required for each course.

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Martin O'Malley, *Governor* | Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor* | Shari T. Wilson, *Secretary*

Air & Radiation Management Administration

Published by Asbestos Division, Lorraine Anderson, Editor



# CONTRACTORS' CORNER . . .

(Tim O'Hare, Section Head, Asbestos Licensing & Enforcement Section)

## ADEQUATELY WET

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a document that is known as the Asbestos National Emissions for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Adequately Wet Guidance, EPA340/1-90-019, December, 1990. It can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/Region4/air/asbestos/awet.htm>. EPA defines "adequately wet" to mean "sufficiently mix or penetrate with liquid to prevent the release of particulates. If visible emissions are observed coming from asbestos-containing material (ACM), then that material has not been adequately wetted. However, the absence of visible emission is not sufficient evidence of being adequately wet (Section 61.141, Definitions). Amended water is often used to wet ACM during repair/removal operations.

You might ask, how does the inspector determine what's adequately wet? If it doesn't feel wet, this inspector will take a sample, put it in a plastic bag, and put it on the dashboard of my car. No condensation in a half hour, it's not wet, you're getting cited, and an enforcement action, including a financial penalty will be forwarded to the Attorney General's office for their review. If I see some condensation, you're probably going to open every bag and add water, and you can expect an official warning. Any questions? Good, I didn't think so.

## PRIVATE RESIDENCES

The other day, we asked a contractor, who will remain anonymous, why he hadn't notified us of the abatement of some friable pipe insulation in somebody's basement. "Didn't have to" he said, "it was below NESHAP." Two problems, NESHAP doesn't apply to single family private residences, no matter how much or how little asbestos is involved. Second, COMAR does apply no matter how much or how little asbestos. So, "Yes", we do have to be notified; it's a requirement, not a "courtesy".

As some of you may have noticed, we have been issuing Administrative Settlement letters (ASL). This is an enforcement tool used when a significant violation has occurred and has been corrected. Please note that penalties will increase if violations are repeated and show a recurring pattern. The following are some examples of ASLs that have been completed since the last newsletter.

- ASL mailed 6/4/09 for \$1,500 – Violation – The asbestos contractor paid for a license allowing 2 or less workers and conducted an asbestos project with 4 workers without paying the additional fee for the license of 3 or more workers.
- ASL mailed 7/31/09 for \$1,500 – Violation – The asbestos contractor paid for a license allowing 2 or less workers and conducted an asbestos project with 15 workers without paying the additional fee for the license of 3 or more workers.
- ASL mailed 7/31/09 for \$1,000 – Violation – The Department was not notified in writing prior to the Company engaging in demolition activities, a violation of COMAR 26.11.21.03A



# STATESIDE...

Management plans for state facilities were due on September 30, 2009. If you have not sent in your plan, please call your inspector and let them know a date when you will have the management plan done.

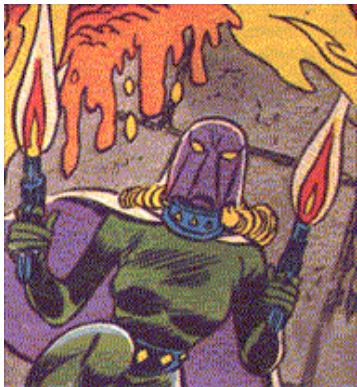
If your employees are late for class, they may have to return to work and take the class later. There is a minimum time that persons must attend a class. Please note that the initial auto class will be held at MDE until further notice. Due to the closing of Rosewood State Hospital, we will be looking for a new location for our initial worker and supervisor classes.

## STATE EMPLOYEE TRAINING CALENDAR

These classes are only for state employees.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| October 2009   | November 2009   |
| 14-16 & 27 – 28 Inspector/Management Planner Initial - MDE | 4 Automotive Worker – MDE<br>18 Worker Review - MDE   |
| December 2009  | January 2010  |
| 2 Asbestos Safety & Health Specialist Class - MDE          | No Classes Scheduled  |
| February 2010  | If you must cancel your scheduled training, your supervisor must call Sharon Manger at 1-800-633-6101 ext. 3200 or e-mail SManger@mde.state.md.us |
| 17 Inspector/Management Planner Review - MDE               |   |

## Just For Fun/Fun Facts



**Asbestos Lady**  
 Real name: Victoria Murdock  
 Power: Fireproof clothing  
 First appeared: 1947 in Captain America No. 63

**Bio:** A brilliant chemist with a criminal mind, Victoria Murdock earned her moniker by creating fireproof clothing lined with asbestos for her and her henchmen to don as they robbed banks. Wielding a flamethrower, she set fires to ward off the police while the bandits made their escape. She also created asbestos bullets to puncture the defenses of her longtime nemesis, the Human Torch.

However, as the hazards of longtime exposure became better known, the Asbestos Lady herself fell victim to the carcinogenic fiber. She was revealed to have cancer in 1990 and, sadly, is believed to have succumbed to the disease.

