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Asbestos 101

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

EDITOR'S NOTES ...

The RSVP date has passed, but there is still room in all of the workshops. The workshops will be especially useful to the new designated persons and useful to facilities people. There are many tasks that the school must take care of to be in compliance with AHERA. When the EPA conducts compliance inspections, EPA is looking for an updated management plan with all of the relevant recordkeeping documented, etc. So please take advantage of the workshops. If you are able to come at the last minute, please do so. Here are the locations and times. Directions and the invitation are at our web site address in "2004 AHERA Workshops" part. Remember, too, that this may be considered part of the designated persons training. The workshops run from 8:30-1. There is no cost.

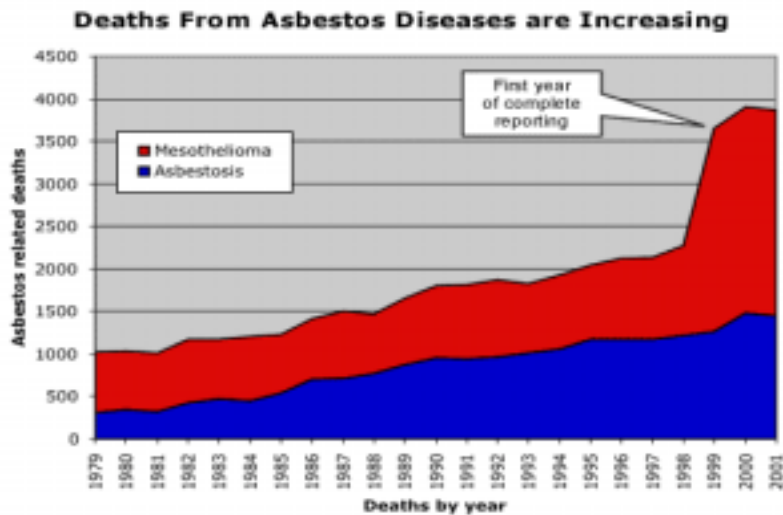
March 30, 2004 MDE in Baltimore.

April 1, 2004 Jefferson Patterson Park Museum in Calvert County.

April 14, 2004 Western Maryland Hospital Center, Hagerstown.

April 15, 2004 Horn Point Laboratories, Cambridge.

ASBESTOS FOR ALL ...



Source: BING Action Fund. Compiled from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), multiple cause of death file 1979-2001. Does not include asbestos-caused mortality from lung or gastrointestinal cancer.



The graphics on page one and this page are scary. These do not include the lung cancer deaths. If you view the newsletter on the web site, the graphics can be seen in color. The mesothelioma part of the graphics is the medium gray. Asbestos has not gone away. We know that people are still being exposed every day, although changes in regulations have probably reduced exposures. The death rate is still rising. Some of this rising death toll are those exposed in 60's-80's who are now showing the diseases. Some experts think that the death toll from asbestos will not start decreasing until 2015 or so. (Treasure, T., D. Waller, S. Swift, and J. Peto. Jan. 2004. Radical Surgery for Mesothelioma. *British Medical Journal*. 328: 237-238.) See graphic at top of this column.

If you are looking for statistics about asbestos diseases, etc. you can find information at this web site: www.ewg.org. This group has put together an article titled *America's Asbestos Epidemic*. There are a number of graphics that could be used as part of a training curriculum, especially for those new to the field. Although this is not a government group, they have gathered their statistics from CDC, OSHA, etc.

There is also some very interesting information on vermiculite from the Agency

for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) on this web site. There is a priority site for cleanup in Maryland located in Beltsville. It is the former W.R. Grace/Zonolite Company site and was one of the sites in MD that received vermiculite from Libby MT. There are five sites in MD and three are in Baltimore City. Of these five sites, the Beltsville site received about 90% of the ore shipped to Maryland. This is according to W.R. Grace records.

ATSDR selected priority sites on the basis of the current site contamination and/or if the plant exfoliated vermiculite at the site. Beltsville was chosen because it exfoliated the ore. Exfoliated means that the ore was heated until it "popped" or expanded. If contaminated with the asbestos, this process led to the release of asbestos. This site processed vermiculite from 1966 until the 1990's. The recent soil tests show no contamination and most of the site is covered with buildings or gravel. So the effort now will involve trying to contact former employees and their household contacts.

Another priority site made the news on 3/15/04. It is located in Weedsport NY and received more than 111,000 tons of ore from Libby.

One of the problems with vermiculite and the asbestos is that there is no laboratory method for analysis specific to vermiculite. The EPA held a two day conference this past February 17-18, 2004 that convened a panel of experts to propose a method that would be used to reliably analyze vermiculite attic insulation (VAI) for the Libby amphibole. The "Cincinnati Method" will most likely be the starting point for the new method, that is (a) accurate with respect to identifying Libby amphibole, (b) affordable to the average homeowner, and (c) adaptable to most current commercial fiber analysis laboratories, to determine whether Libby amphibole is present in a sample of VAI. You may find more details on the EPA's asbestos page at

the EPA's web site: www.epa.gov/asbestos.

CONTRACTORS' CORNER ...

It seems that it is time again to discuss notifications for asbestos projects. The following is from Lorraine Anderson, the Division Chief for Asbestos Licensing. You may call her at 410.537.3200. All notifications for NESHAP-sized jobs must be postmarked at least 10 working days in advance and a copy sent to EPA. All other notifications need to arrive in our office before the job begins. We should not be receiving notifications for jobs that are in the process of bidding because we should not be getting a notification until the contractor has been awarded the bid. There are no such things as courtesy notifications. Please remember that these notifications need to be as accurate as possible because your signature is on it.

We have been receiving numerous variance requests. If a job is not NESHAP, a variance for a glove bag, for example, is not required. Please note that just requesting a variance does not mean that a variance is granted. We always send a letter granting the variance. If you are unsure whether a variance has been granted, please call us to confirm.

The Fort Worth Project that was discussed at the 2002 national asbestos meeting in Baltimore is going on to the next phase. The EPA's Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) report raised many concerns about the project. For more information, a description of the latest proposed demolition is at <http://www.fortworthgov.org/dem/news031204.htm>. The Ft Worth's "XL proposal" website that includes the quality assurance project plan (the new one is not up yet), http://www.fortworthgov.org/dem/project_xl_docs.htm. The OIG's Report entitled

"Significant Modifications Needed To Ensure Success of Fort Worth Asbestos Demolition Method" is at <http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2003/20031219-2004-p-00002.pdf>. One of the interesting facts in the OIG's report is that several of the stakeholders had serious reservations about the method, yet it is going forward?! Stay tuned for more information.

SCHOOLS ...

If you can, please take advantage of the workshops we are offering. If you are a new designated person, there are many things you must do. There are tasks for those schools with no asbestos subject to AHERA, albeit fewer tasks than for those with assumed or known asbestos materials. The EPA is very concerned about the lack of compliance in the schools nationwide, not just in Maryland. Remember that the penalty per building may be \$5500 per day per violation. The EPA wants the schools to fix problems, not collect money just to fine the schools. Usually the EPA will assess a penalty and part of it or all of it may be used to make the corrections. However, there may still be money that is paid to the EPA. Remember Montgomery County and its \$22,000 fine of which they used \$18,000 to make the corrections, and paid the rest to the EPA??

On October 9, 2003, EPA's Region II issued a press release describing the complaint issued against Puerto Rico's Department of Education for AHERA violations. The EPA also issued a complaint against the Puerto Rico Public Building Authority, and Indutech Environmental Services, Inc. for NESHAP violations. On February 27, 2004 EPA announced the settlement agreement that it reached with the Puerto Rico schools for \$5.6 million!! This money will be used to fix the problems in the Puerto Rico schools.

One of the more egregious instances cited in

press release is the removal of floor tile in a high school by students and teachers. These people had no training, no protective equipment, etc. There was no management plan nor any other records. Another school had pieces of asbestos-containing stucco on the desks and floors.

Obviously, the Puerto Rico Schools will be spending a great deal of time and resources to remedy the problems. If a school falls behind and the EPA requires the school to fix the problems; the school will have to fix things when the EPA wants them fixed and not necessarily when the school would choose to do it. A large school system may need to spend a very substantial sum of money in a short period of time to fix the problems.

TRAINING PROVIDERS ...

NOTE: The next training provider meeting is Thursday, September 9, 2004 here at MDE from 9:30-Noon.

Congratulations! Most of you are sending the checks and applications to the lockbox where they should be going!! Just be sure that page one of the application is on top of the package with the check on top of page one.

For those of you who came to the meeting, the applicaton checklist was discussed. When Ms. Manger sends out renewal reminders, she will attach a checklist to the application. **THE CHECKLIST MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION.**

The checklist covers all of the items that must be submitted each year. Some of the items may not be new so just copy them from last year. We need these items every year because you folks do update these items and do not tell us. This

is a good time to provide the updated outlines, etc. so that we may review these and approve these items before you use them. The regulations do require that certain changes must be approved before you make them.

One of the most important items that the Department must approve PRIOR to making the change is use of instructors. You may not use an instructor unless we have approved the person. You may not use "guest" instructors. We do approve instructors for specific topics. All initial courses (except worker) require two instructors. A minimum split of time between two persons should be 25:75. One instructor for two hours in a 40 hour course is not sufficient.

STATESIDE ...

Please note that Rebecca Macewen and Mike Sweeney have divided up the state into two areas for handling the facilities. Rebecca will be covering Montgomery, Howard, Harford, Baltimore County & City, Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Alleghany, and Garrett counties. Mike will be covering the rest.

Facilities with schools subject to AHERA, need to place information for all response actions in the management plan for that school. This includes any records generated by DGS.

(Note: These classes are only for state employees.)

APRIL 2004	MAY 2004
March 29-April 2 Supervisor I 6 SR 20-23 Worker I	5-7 Bldg. Insp. 13 Automotive 18-19 Manage. Planner
JUNE 2004 3 Worker R 8 Supervisor R 10 BIMPR	If you must cancel, call Sharon Manger or Janice Lafon at (410) 537-3801 or (800) 633-6101.-3801 or email: smanger@mde.state.md.us or jlafon@mde.state.md.us