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Asbestos 101

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

EDITOR'S NOTES...

This is the 17th issue of the newsletter ...the beginning of the 5th year of publication.



Remember the June issue when there was "dancing in the aisles"? Now there is dancing and singing in the aisles. On December 4, 1998, EPA Region III approved Maryland's Model Accreditation Plan (MAP). After nearly 5 years since the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act (ASHARA) regulations were issued, our MAP is approved. This means that the Department may accept applications from "new" training providers and applications for "new" courses from approved training providers.

The application is on the MDE web site at the address at the top of this page. When you are at the MDE home page, go to the upper right hand corner and choose "Asbestos and Industrial Hygiene" from the drop down list. This will take you directly to the page where the forms are in both Word 97[®] and the Adobe Acrobat Reader[®] format, files with the extension: ".pdf". Do not use the Word forms unless you have Word 97. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is a free program and can be downloaded with a link from this page.

The application is the document: MDE 240-TP. The form, MDE 265, is the form used to submit training class information.

ASBESTOS FOR ALL...

The following is an alert about a potential hazard at many abatement and demolition sites, demolition sites especially. The hazard is silica dust and OSHA considers it such a serious hazard that silica is the subject of a special emphasis program. The hazards of silica which causes silicosis, are old and well known, yet OSHA has had to institute a special emphasis program to address this health hazard which with our knowledge should no longer be an important occupational health hazard. Special emphasis programs are for hazards that are so severe that ordinary inspections, etc. are not deemed sufficient to take care of the problem. Silica occurs naturally and is found in many products, the most familiar being silica sand, such as found at the beach or mixed with cement to make concrete. Visit the OSHA website at: <http://www.osha.gov>, go the index, select letter "S", and find information on silica. There is also a "silica advisor" which will help you determine if your company or employees are engaging in activities that may be exposing them to silica dust that causes silicosis, a progressive fibrotic lung disease. This is a preventable disease, not a curable disease!!

The final rule for permit-required confined spaces was issued on 12/1/98. This can become a concern for those who may work in crawlspaces, steam tunnels, etc. Call MOSH for more information at 410 767-2209.

Winter is here and the threat of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is present where workers are using combustion-powered devices to

keep warm and/or do work. These are the kerosene and propane powered space heaters, gas fueled vehicles, etc. *Remember CO is odorless, colorless, and tasteless.* If you can smell exhaust vapors, you are being exposed to CO that is part of the emissions from a combustion-powered device!! (You *cannot smell* the CO, but you are smelling the other parts of the emissions.)

As some of you know the cost of 1st class postage is being increased next year. The price increase coupled with the ever increasing number of recipients for the newsletters has steadily increased the cost of the newsletter. I would like to send it out 1st class each time because that will ensure timely delivery, is less work for the staff, and newsletters with incorrect addresses will be returned. However, the cost for postage alone for this is going to be almost \$1500 annually and this is too much. There is a solution and that is to use e-mail and the MDE web site for delivering the newsletter.

The newsletter is posted on our web site on the last day of the quarter and would be e-mailed at the same time. For those who would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please e-mail me with a request to do so. If you are able to use the newsletter on the MDE web site, let me know and I can remove your name from the mailing list for the newsletter. If you are unable to use these sources for the newsletter, don't worry, you will still receive the newsletter by U.S. mail. My primary goal is to send as many out by e-mail and through the web site as possible so that the remainder can always be mailed first class. My secondary goal is to cut down on the labor involved in preparing the newsletter for mailing.

Using the website and e-mail will allow me to send the newsletter to more recipients. Everyone in your office could have their own copy. Incidentally we will be using barcoded labels

for a couple issues until the readers get used to the idea of the web site and e-mail. However there is also an ongoing cost in using the barcode in order to receive a reduced rate for bulk mail from the post office.

SCHOOLS...

If you have lost your management plan, it needs to be replaced. Our office has copies of plans, submitted after 1995. Plans submitted earlier have been disposed of according to our disposal schedule. You may be able to go back to the original management planner and get a copy, probably for a fee. However you do need a CURRENT management plan at the school. Charlie Kobal, our AHERA inspector, is still finding schools with no management plan, no reinspection, or reinspections that are overdue. If you need help, please call our office for assistance that is no cost to you. For some of you who have not seen the document, "The 100 Commonly Asked Questions About the New AHERA Asbestos-In-Schools Rule aka "The 100 Questions", it is available from our office. It will be on the web site by 2/1/99. This document is 10 years old, but the final AHERA regulations that were published on October 30, 1987 *have not been changed in 11 years!!* This document is extremely useful if you are an inspector, management planner, teacher, or parent.

CONTRACTORS' CORNER...

The idea of power washing has come up again. This time the idea is to use power washing on transite that we are assured is in good condition, etc., etc. However the chances are very good that you will render the material friable

and suddenly be in the midst of a now regulated project. No, we do not regulate the cleaning of materials until you do something that makes the material friable. Our experience and that of others suggests that you may wish to ask for an interpretation on whether the project you plan with nonfriable materials and power washing will proceed as you desire and remain unregulated. If the project becomes regulated and your company is not licensed, you have a plethora of problems. Note the following tales.

A contractor in Maine performed power washing on a transite roof and contaminated adjoining properties, two of which belonged to lawyers. The cleanup cost more than \$200,000! In Wisconsin personal sampling of persons working with wetted transite showed that wetting with amended water using an airless sprayer did not prevent exposure to unprotected persons.

Just another reminder that you must revise notifications whenever the job ends early, is postponed, work is not done for one day, job is cancelled, etc. Phone calls are polite and welcome, but are not legally sufficient...*you must send in the revised notification.*

TRAINING PROVIDERS...

Again, thank you for attending the meeting on November 5th here at MDE. It went well and we will do it again. As Mrs. Manger and I promised, she is returning the training submittals that are not properly filled out. On the second page of form MDE 265, there was an error in an earlier version that just asked for a first initial, it should be the first name as on the first page. The revised form is available on the web site or we can send it to you.



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As I promised at the meeting I am ready to experiment with receiving the training information by e-mail (for now). If someone would wish to volunteer so we can experiment, please call me and we can work out the details. Sharon Manger and I have been experimenting with the digital camera, the software, printer, scanner, etc. and it all works well. For the purposes of the photo identification cards, use a good quality paper like the Epson® Photo Quality InkJet Paper, which is not the only one. It is not necessary to use photo paper. We scanned the finished (laminated) cards and found that by saving it in a TIFF-compressed format, a very small file was produced. The quality was excellent. The MDE 265 will also be submitted via e-mail. You will receive an acknowledgment.

If you wish to submit scanned color copies of the finished photo identification cards, please send a sample and we'll let you know if the quality is OK. This will save having to make two photos of the person. But we must approve it first.

The front of the photo identification card requires that you place your company's acronym just to the right of red number. This is critical if you do not want to have to submit a copy of the whole card (prior to folding and laminating).

Doing this makes the card much more useful to the trainee who does not need to copy both sides in order to know who was the training provider. If you don't know what yours is, please call me and ask for your acronym.

STATESIDE...



Winter Alert: Training classes at Spring Grove Hospital Center *will be cancelled IF* classes for either Baltimore City or Baltimore County Public Schools are cancelled due to inclement weather.

These are training classes for state employees and are not open to the public.

January	1999	February	1999
28	Worker R	11	Supervisor R
		18	ASHS I
		23-26	Worker I
March	1999	If you must cancel, call Mrs. Manger at (410) 631-3801 or (800) 633-6101,-3801 e-mail: smanger@mde.state.md.us	
4	Worker R		
10-12	Bldg. Insp. I		
18-19	MP I		
23	Auto I		