

violation will be punishable by a substantial fine. In order to obtain certification an individual must have completed an approved training program. A similar certification process applies to asbestos investigators.

Violations: Local Law 76 of 1985 will subject people who violate the provisions of that law to fines of up to \$10,000 per incident. Stop work orders may be issued if work is conducted in such a manner as to pose a threat to safety.

Transportation, Storage and Disposal: During 1985 the Mayor also signed Local Law 70, which regulates the transportation, storage and disposal of asbestos waste. The following are the procedures to be followed at the site of waste generation:

- All waste must be wet down so that there is no visible emission of asbestos dust into the air.
- The material must be sealed while wet in two leak-tight polyethylene bags which bear warning labels.
- Asbestos by-products must be isolated from all other wastes.
- Until the asbestos waste has been properly delivered to an authorized disposal site, all asbestos waste must be inspected at least once every twenty-four hours to ensure that the containers are intact, sealed, and that no visible dust escapes into the air.
- If the asbestos waste is disposed of in New York City, it may only be at Department of Sanitation authorized facilities.

What Is The Future Of Asbestos Abatement?

New York's City's asbestos safety program is one of the most stringent in the nation. It both offers the City's population effective protection against the dangers of asbestos and provides a firm groundwork for even stronger legislation in the future. For example, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection is presently conducting a study to determine if asbestos in buildings not scheduled for demolition or renovation poses a threat to health.

Questions

If you have any further questions about asbestos or if you think an asbestos hazard may exist, call the Department of Environmental Protection's 24 hour Communication Center at 212-966-7500.

For More Asbestos Information:

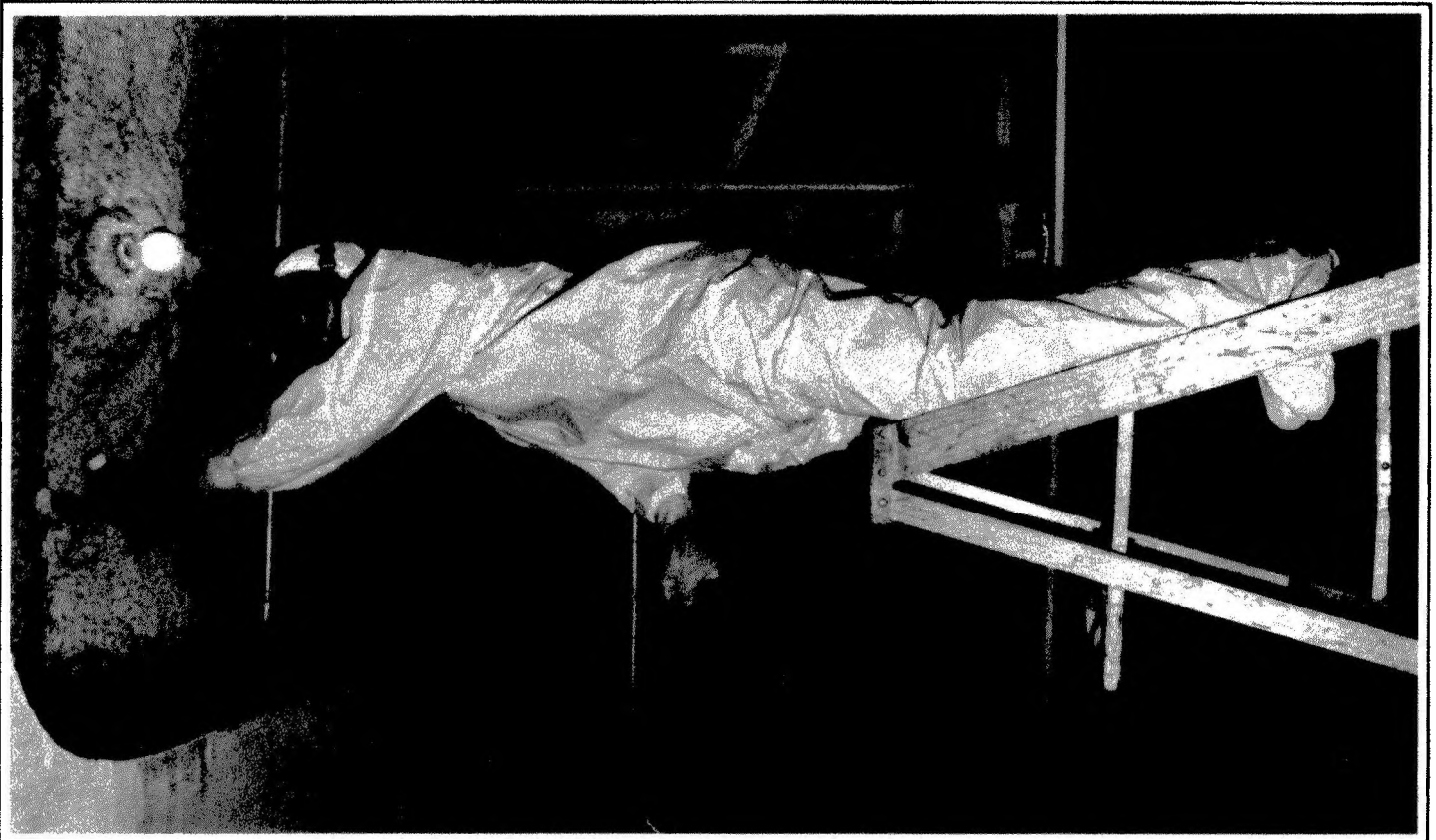
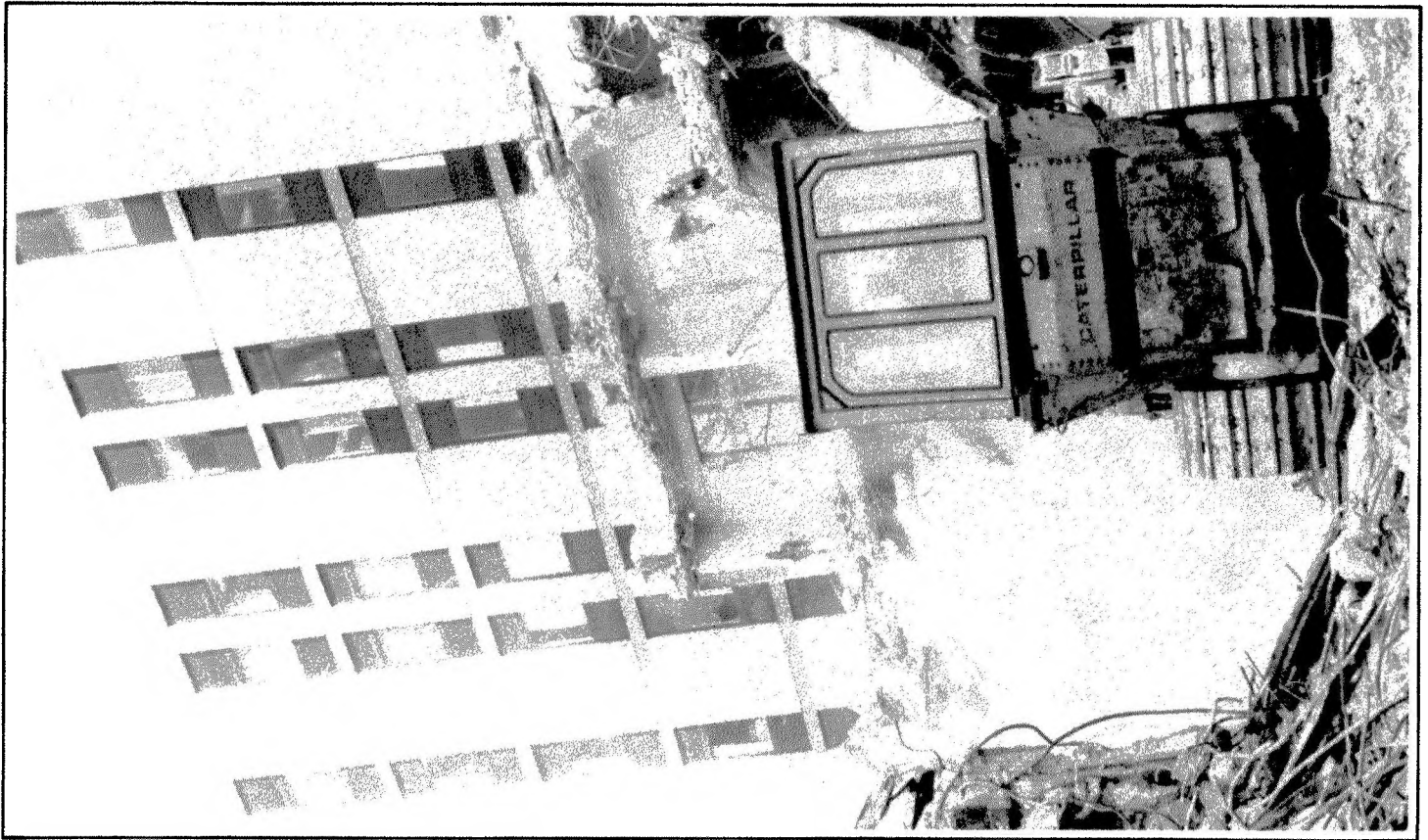
- Call Federal EPA's Toll Free Number, 1-800-424-9065, for other asbestos publications.
- Call the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Toll Free Number 1-800-638-CPSC for a copy of their booklet "Asbestos in the Home".
- Write the National Cancer Institute, Building 31, Room 10A18, Bethesda, Maryland 20892 for free copies of their booklet "Asbestos Exposure: What it means, What to do."

NEW YORK CITY CONFRONTS ASBESTOS



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

City of New York EDWARD I. KOCH, Mayor HARVEY W. SCHULTZ, Commissioner



In What Form Is Asbestos Dangerous?

Experts consider asbestos fibers to be relatively safe when they are firmly bonded or compacted within another material. However, when loosely bonded, these fibers may crumble into a dust comprised of microscopic asbestos particles. This form of *friable asbestos* is easily released into the air where it can be inhaled, swallowed or become attached to clothing. Airborne asbestos poses the greatest health threat.

Tightly-bonded asbestos can also pose a health risk when it is disturbed. Although the City banned the use of asbestos in construction in 1972, renovation or demolition of buildings constructed prior to that time may result in the release of asbestos which had previously been safely contained.

Public Health Is Threatened When:

- Asbestos materials are present in a form which may result in the release of asbestos fibers into the air: materials that can be pulverized by hand pressure are of much greater concern than hard cement compounds or solid vinyl asbestos tiles which contain asbestos.
- Existing asbestos is disturbed by renovation work or the installation of new heating, electrical or communication systems.
- Asbestos removal is undertaken without adequate safety precautions and properly trained personnel.

What Are The Health Hazards?

Asbestos, according to the medical experts, increases the risk of four serious diseases:

1. **Asbestosis:** This illness results from chronic exposure to airborne asbestos fibers and is not a disease found in the general population. It involves the scarring of lung tissue and may lead to shortness of breath or more serious lung damage.
2. **Lung Cancer:** According to recent statistics, 20% of all asbestos workers die of lung cancer. This illness usually develops 20 to 40 years after the initial exposure.
3. **Mesothelioma:** Most cases of this cancer can be linked to asbestos exposure. Mesothelioma attacks the thin membrane that lines the chest, lungs and abdomen.
4. **Gastro-Intestinal And Other Cancers:** There is evidence that asbestos may cause cancers along the esophagus, the tube leading from the back of the mouth to the stomach. Asbestos particles contained in food, beverages or anything put in the mouth, can be swallowed and passed along the digestive tract.

How Does The Law Protect Me From Asbestos?

Decreasing human exposure to asbestos has become an environmental priority. The City, State and Federal governments have passed numerous laws strictly regulating most asbestos-related work. The following are some highlights of recent asbestos legislation:



Federal Laws

Two agencies of the Federal government offer protection from unsafe asbestos work:

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) monitors asbestos-related work and mandates legal limits on exposure in the workspace (not more than .2 asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter of air).
- The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitors the handling and removal of asbestos through the Clean Air Act/National Emissions Standard For Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) program. Construction activities (demolition or renovation) which will disturb asbestos must be reported to the EPA prior to removal of asbestos. Detailed plans for asbestos removal and disposal must be submitted for projects that remove 260 linear feet of asbestos covered pipe or 160 square feet of asbestos-containing material. Recently proposed regulations would phase out most use of asbestos over the next ten years.
- In addition, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Federal EPA also requires that all primary and secondary schools inspect,

sample and analyze for asbestos and inform all school employees and parent-teacher organizations of the location of friable asbestos.

State Laws

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Right-To-Know law authorizes worker inquiry into workplace hazards. Under this law an employee can find out whether exposure to toxic substances has taken place and what measures can be taken to mitigate the dangers. If an employee does not receive this information from the employer within 72 hours of requesting it, he/she has the legal right to refuse to work in the vicinity of the questionable substance. The agency also requires asbestos haulers to obtain a permit when transporting 500 pounds or more of asbestos waste.

In the spring of 1985 new State legislation was adopted that requires Statewide licensing of, as well as stricter standards for, those who remove and dispose of asbestos. The City of New York supports State Contractor licensing legislation because uniform safety measures, coupled with close state-supervised monitoring, will decrease the hazards created by improper work with this material. In addition, this State legislation allows the revoking of a contractor's license for failure to comply with safeguards, a penalty that would act as a powerful deterrent.

New York City's Program

The New York City Air Code prohibits the emission of any, "air contaminant containing asbestos, except where such an air contaminant is emitted from the brake lining of a motor vehicle during normal use." Although this article bans the use of asbestos in new products and buildings, it does not specify procedures for renovation and demolition work that would disturb already existing asbestos material. Therefore, New York City has undertaken a comprehensive control program to further protect the public from exposure.

Permits: The New York City Council has adopted and the Mayor has signed Local Law 76 of 1985 to ensure that asbestos-related work is performed in a safe manner by properly trained personnel. This program regulates demolition and renovation involving asbestos-containing material through the Department of Building's permit process. Applicants for building permits involving alteration or demolition are required to do one of two things. They must either provide certification from an asbestos investigator that the work will not constitute an "asbestos project" or if asbestos is involved, an asbestos inspection report must be filed. This report, which must be completed before any demolition/alteration work begins, must describe the type and duration of activity, the amount of asbestos-containing material involved, the planned disposal date, etc.

Certification: This legislation also requires the certification of individuals performing asbestos-related work. As of December 2, 1986 anyone who does not hold a valid asbestos handling certificate cannot legally work on any construction project involving asbestos, and such a

Asbestos, once thought to be a wonder material for use in insulation, fireproofing and textiles, is now known to be associated with lung disease and other serious illnesses. Although asbestos has proved to be hazardous, its danger can be greatly diminished through careful handling and strict monitoring of all asbestos-related work.

Recent media coverage and litigation have increased the focus on the asbestos issue but the public has often been left confused. New York City shares the public's growing concern over this hazardous air pollutant and has responded by developing strong asbestos control programs. As a complement to these programs, it is critical that the public be provided with accurate information about asbestos. This pamphlet marks the beginning of that educational process.

What Is Asbestos?

The name "asbestos" refers to a family of strong and flexible mineral fibers that are relatively indestructible, heat resistant and chemically stable. Over the past six decades these fibers have been used in over 3,000 different products manufactured in the United States. Currently, about 800,000 tons of asbestos per year are processed as floor and ceiling tiles, brake linings, cement material, coatings for electrical wire and many other familiar products. More than half of all high-rise buildings built in the United States prior to 1972, when the City banned the use of asbestos in construction, contain some form of asbestos. In New York City alone about 3.5 million tons of asbestos is contained in fireproofing, boiler rooms and other locations within city buildings.