**Asbestos Containing Pipe Coating Removal**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this program is to provide basic precautions and protections for employees to avoid exposure to asbestos containing material when removing materials from pipe.

1. **General Requirements**

* Prior to the start of the job and as needed during a job, a trained Competent Person must conduct an inspection of the work site, materials and equipment.
* The Competent Person:
  + Must be capable of identifying asbestos hazards and selecting appropriate control strategies.
  + Must determine whether the pipe wrap material is intact and will likely remain intact during removal.
  + Shall have authorization to take prompt corrective actions to eliminate a hazard.
* Workers within the regulated or designated area must not eat, drink or smoke. These activities must be conducted outside of these areas to prevent accidental inhalation or ingestion of airborne asbestos fibers.
* In addition to establishing a perimeter around the regulated area, warning signs must be posted around the regulated area in sufficient number to identify the hazard.

1. **Removal**

* Removal and handling of asbestos-containing materials must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and the requirements of this policy.
* Removal of pipe coating must be performed by trained workers only.
* 6 mil thick polyethylene sheeting must always be placed under the pipeline during coating removal to collect any debris generated.
* Adequately wet the pipeline coating with an amended water solution using a low-pressure garden style sprayer or other similar device to prevent any visible dust emissions during the coating removal process.
* Non-friable pipe wrap is not considered regulated ACM when it is intact and manually removed with hand tools that slice, punch, or sheer the material.
* The pipe wrap shall be removed only with manual methods that will not cause the material to become friable. The material *shall not* be sanded, abraded, or ground.
* A utility knife or similar tool may be used to cut the coating into uniform squares to prevent tearing or crumbling of the coating and to remove it intact in a non-friable condition.
* The use of high-speed abrasive disks and compressed air as a means by which to remove the coating is prohibited.

1. **Cleanup and Disposal**

* The wet intact coating pieces should be placed into labeled asbestos waste bags.
* These bags should be air tight, puncture resistant, and labeled with the name of the waste generator and the location where the waste was generated.
* These bags should only be half filled, and the end closed by a "goose-neck" method and sealed with duct tape.
* Vacuum cleaners equipped with HEPA filters must be used to collect all debris generated by coating removal and to decontaminate disposable clothing of workers and supervisors in the designated area upon exiting the regulated area.
* Sealed, secured and labeled containers of ACM waste must be removed and transported to a pre-arranged disposal location as soon as technically feasible.
* Vehicles used for transport should be labeled properly during loading and unloading.
* A waste shipment record must be maintained.

1. **PPE**

PPE must be worn by all who enter the regulated area. Proper PPE for asbestos workers includes but not limited to:

* Respirators
* Full body disposable suits
* Safety goggles
* Disposable gloves
* Disposable Over boots or Gumboots (Gumboots must be thoroughly washed afterwards)

The respirator may not be required following collection of air monitoring data by a Competent person which demonstrates that exposures are below OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limit. (The program must demonstrate a negative exposure assessment within the last 12 months or state asbestos containing pipe coating removal projects are and will be below the permissible exposure limit).

1. **Training**

Employees who perform asbestos pipe coating removal work must complete classroom and hands-on training, by an approved training provider, in the following:

* Methods of recognizing asbestos
* Health effects of asbestos
* Respirator training
* Requirements for posting signs
* Cleanup and disposal methods
* Recognition and handling of intact and non-intact material
* Hands on training for acceptable removal methods