

CITY OF ALPENA, MICHIGAN
STANDARD OPERATING POLICY

SUBJECT: Asbestos Handling	SOP No.	31
	Date Issued	3/16/00
	Effective Date	3/17/00

Copies to: City Council, Department Heads, City Attorney, Personnel Assistant, City Employees, ETOS

PURPOSE:

To outline health hazards associated with inhaling asbestos, define procedures necessary to comply with MIOSHA regulations, and to educate employees and contractors on standard methods to be used to prevent dangerous levels of asbestos fibers from becoming airborne within working areas.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

- A. Introduction/Overview – The mineral fibers known as asbestos have been mined for many years. The fibers have been used as a bonding agent to produce products that are tough, flexible, fire-resistant, and provide effective insulation and sound deadening.

Because of its beneficial qualities, asbestos has been widely used in floor and ceiling tiles, roofing, dry wall, insulation, and cement pipe.

- B. Health Risks – Asbestos can be very hazardous to human health. Tiny, almost invisible particles may break loose from sources and be inhaled without being noticed. The fibers present a potential health risk; so asbestos that is dry, loose, and can be crumbled in the hand is the most dangerous. The condition is known as “friable.”

Asbestos may become friable if it is disturbed during construction or renovation or if it deteriorates over time. Asbestos exposure can cause disabling respiratory disease, asbestosis, and various types of cancer, such as lung cancer and mesothelioma if the fibers are inhaled in large quantities over long periods of time.

- C. Training – The most common asbestos exposure source for City and Contractor Employees involves working with water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer pipe. Cement/asbestos pipe is also known as transit pipe and composes a significant percentage of the underground utility pipe located in the City of Alpena.

Following safe work practices developed by AWWA may significantly reduce the risk of asbestos exposure, and the Association of Asbestos-Cement Pipe Producers (AACPP) has outlined these policies in the AWWA manual entitled “Work Practices for Asbestos-Cement Pipe.” A copy of this manual will be provided to all DPW, Utility, and Engineering Department employees.

The City of Alpena will provide the following minimum training to DPW and Engineering Department employees who are involved with tasks that expose them to cement-asbestos pipe:

- a. Safe Procedures
 1. Shipping, receiving, and handling procedures.
 2. Closure lengths and closure couplings.
 3. Pipe cutting methods.
 4. Machining and field trimming.
 5. Pressure tapping.
 6. Nonpressure tapping.

- b. Unsafe Work Procedures – All employees performing work for the City of Alpena will be informed of unsafe work practices for asbestos pipe. Until the training can be accomplished, all employees are specifically prohibited from using the following unsafe procedures when working on cement-asbestos pipe:
 1. Dry-abrasive cutting.
 2. Right-angle sanding and the use of high-speed, abrasive, tools.
 3. Cutting with carbide-tipped, cutting blades.
 4. Using electrical drills, chisels, and rasps.
 5. Coupling removal with a chisel and hammer.

- c. Care of Equipment
 1. Equipment must be promptly cleaned with water after work with asbestos pipe is completed. The rinse water should be drained to the sanitary sewer system.
 2. **NEVER** blow off equipment used to cut or mill asbestos pipe with compressed air.

- d. Waste Disposal
 1. Construction site – All waste asbestos pipe must be removed from the construction site daily, and the material should never be left unattended overnight at a construction site.
 2. Discarded pipe must be deposited in an approved air-tight container clearly marked “Asbestos.”
 3. The transport of any asbestos waste material must comply with local, state, and federal regulations.
 4. Written approval from the landfill authorizing asbestos waste disposal must be on file at City Hall.
 5. Construction debris that contains asbestos must be handled and disposed of in a manner consistent with state and federal hazardous waste regulations.
 6. All prescribed training will be provided by a City-designated “Competent Person,” or a certified health and safety professional.

D. Identification of Hazard Sources – The following list summarizes some of the possible sources of asbestos that may be encountered by City DPW, Water/Wastewater Utility, and Engineering Department Personnel:

- a. Water mains.
- b. Storm sewer mains.
- c. Sanitary sewer mains.
- d. Boiler pipe insulation.
- e. Countertops.
- f. Roofing felts and shingles.
- g. Floor tiles.

The City will provide a “Competent Person” who is properly trained to identify existing asbestos hazards and select the appropriate control strategy in the event that these materials must be disturbed. This person will have the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate potential unacceptable employee exposure.

Any employee encountering suspected asbestos-containing material MUST contact the designated “Competent Person” before the material is disturbed.

E. Asbestos Inventory – Prior to any building construction or demolition activity at a City-owned facility, an asbestos inventory will be completed. The inventory will be completed by a state-certified inspector, and will include analytical results from samples taken from suspected asbestos sources.

F. Site Specific Demonstration of Handling Techniques

- a. A site-specific sampling will be conducted to verify that the pipe handling procedures outlined in the AWWA manual comply with MIOSHA personal exposure limits.
- b. The initial samplings will be conducted during the 2000 construction season.
- c. Air monitoring will occur during typical asbestos pipe cutting, milling, and removal activities. The goal of the sampling is to demonstrate compliance with exposure limits by consistent use of Standard Work Practices.
- d. The results of the monitoring will be on file at City Hall and will be provided to all employees.
- e. Site-specific asbestos monitoring will be repeated every five years.

G. Construction Bidding Documents – All contractors bidding on City-initiated projects that include, but are not limited to, construction, maintenance, and operation, will demonstrate compliance with requirements of the US Occupational Safety and Health Act (CFR 1926.1101) with regard to exposure to asbestos.

Alan L. Bakalarski, City Manager