

SAFETY TAILGATE MEETING

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Company	Thomas James Ho	Thomas James Homes: SoCal		10469 ILONA	
Date	November 25, 2024	Time	1:58 PM	Conductor	Jose Valadez

ASBESTOS AWARENESS

INTRODUCTION

Asbestos can cause ASBESTOSIS, a scarring of the lung tissue, and MESOTHELIOMA, which is a type of cancer in the lungs. It can develop over time, and greatly reduce the quality of life and the life span of a person.

WHAT IT IS: It is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. Individual fibers cannot be seen by the human eye, which puts us at greater risk. While there are additional types of Asbestos, the most common type that construction workers are exposed to is CRYSOLITE.

In this meeting, we will discuss:

- (1) WHERE IS IT FOUND
- (2) HOW EXPOSURE OCCURS

(3) HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

WHERE IS IT FOUND

Asbestos is primarily in structures built before 1981. Examples of presumed asbestos containing materials are:

- Vinyl floor tiles
- Roofing and siding shingles
- Plaster, cement and caulk
- Thermal system insulation
- Ceiling tiles and spray on coatings
- Industrial pipe wrapping
- Heat resistant textiles
- Automotive break linings and clutch pads.

Construction trades most at risk are: Plumbers, pipefitters, electricians, insulators, sheet metal workers, roofers, brick layers, steel workers and painters.

HOW EXPOSURE OCCURS

When items that contain asbestos are NOT DISTURBED, then there IS NO HAZARD. However, when asbestos fibers become AIRBORNE, then there IS EXPOSURE through inhalation.

Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL): The PEL for a worker is 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter as an 8-hour time weighted average, and no more than 1.0 in a 30- minute period.

It is difficult to know this without a specialist testing the air. Therefore, in construction, if we suspect there is Asbestos-containing material that must be disturbed, stop and notify your supervisor or company management. Only a Certified Asbestos Abatement Contractor can abate the hazard.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Be aware of what Asbestos is and where it is found. Do not disturb it or otherwise cause it to become airborne.
- Before you disturb Asbestos you must have special training Use an engineering control to keep the exposure below the PEL.
- If some does have the approved training to work around Asbestos, an engineering control would be implemented and the proper PPE be worn, including respiratory protection.

Group Discussion:

- Where specifically may we encounter Asbestos? \ What should we do if we encounter it?
- Are there any questions?

Attendees Names

Jose Valdez

Attendees Signatures

N/A

CONDUCTOR SIGNATURE



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