

91536

PB80150691



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45226

HAZARD EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
REPORT NO. TA 79-28

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 1979

I. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND STATEMENT OF REQUEST

On March 29, 1979, NIOSH Region III received a request (through Dr. Anthony Robbins, Director of NIOSH, and Jerome Flesch, Chief, HETAB) from the Smithsonian Institution that a knowledgeable representative be made available... "to discuss the hazards of asbestos, sampling, testing for concentrations in the atmosphere, OSHA standards, hazard evaluation and the NIOSH reports of tests conducted at Smithsonian facilities." A presentation, with a question and answer period was agreed upon for the Smithsonian administrators and facilities personnel which will cover potential health hazards of asbestos and what should be done to overcome them.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

NIOSH Regional Industrial Hygienist, Frank A. Lewis, being quite familiar with the asbestos problems at large and at the Smithsonian, was chosen to give this presentation. On April 11, 1979, a one and one-half hour presentation was given to a group of seventeen Smithsonian administrators and personnel in the conference room of the Office of Protection Services (See Attachment I).

III. RESULTS, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Report No. TA 79-11, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and Suitland, Maryland (also encompassing TA 73-5, TA 76-63, and TA 78-4) was presented at this meeting.

2. A question and answer period followed this presentation.

3. A discussion was also presented in order to show what options were available with regard to any existing or potential asbestos insulation exposures throughout the Smithsonian Institution.

4. The NIOSH Regional Industrial Hygienist (speaker) revealed that no asbestos exposure problems existed in the areas surveyed (TA 79-11). However, in areas that would have a lot of worker or equipment movement or where through structural vibration, reentrainment, or degradation/fall-out of insulation, the possibility of airborne asbestos exposures could still exist. Also, in warehouses similar to that of Building 9 and 10 in the Silver Hill Facility, but not covered over, there would probably be similar exposure problems as existed previously. Therefore, these areas, with caution and prudence in mind,

REPRODUCED BY:
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
Springfield, Virginia 22161

NTIS

should be considered for enclosure or removal of asbestos insulation and interim personal protection for employees (e.g. NIOSH/MSA approved respirators for asbestos and coveralls, head covering and booties) regardless of whether air monitoring is below the standards. OSHA regulations 1910.1001 for asbestos should be adhered to with regard to air and medical monitoring, hygiene practices, clean-up and disposal and protective gear.

5. There did appear to be some confusion as to where the responsibility for making these final decisions should lie and why there had been no efforts by the Smithsonian, to respond to previous NIOSH technical assistance survey recommendations. Several administrators wanted the final decisions to rest with a "credible third party" (e.g. NIOSH) so that funds asked of Congress would be more justified. Others felt that the Office of Protection Services should be responsible and still others did not want to be left in the position of having to interpret these recommendations for their own specific areas.

6. It had been tentatively decided that based on the NIOSH Industrial Hygienist's recommendations the Office of Protection Services would put together a complete listing of areas in the Smithsonian which contain asbestos insulation and to handle each based on the NIOSH criteria. The administrators and building heads/department heads would receive these instructions for their approval and implementation.

7. Any area with air sampling results > NIOSH standards should be dealt with as well as those areas which may be below the standards but because of the work environment could be a problem. All other areas < NIOSH standards and where the work environment is secure can be left alone - but air monitoring should continue in order to keep a watchful eye on the situation.

Of course, the ideal course of action would be to remove all of the insulation containing asbestos.

IV. FUTURE ACTIONS

Under Title 29, Chapter XVII, Part 1960 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor - "Safety and Health Provisions for Federal Employees", the Office of Federal Agency Safety Programs in Washington, D.C. is responsible for assisting the various Federal agencies in fulfilling their occupational health responsibilities. It is suggested that the Smithsonian contact Clinton W. Wright, Director of Federal Agency Programs, OSHA/DOL to establish a permanent channel of communications and assistance with regard to fulfilling these responsibilities. Also, it is the responsibility of the agency heads for protecting their employees through implementation of recognized safety and health standards.

Furthermore, due to the increased workload of the Federal agencies' safety and health programs, many of these agencies are utilizing private consultants in order to meet these responsibilities.

We are familiar with the extensive resources of the Smithsonian and have no doubt that they will be able to implement an effective safety and health program to deal with this present asbestos problem and any others that may arise.

V. Authorship and Acknowledgements

Report Prepared By:

Frank A. Lewis
Regional Industrial Hygienist
Project Leader, HETAB, NIOSH

Originating Office:

Jerome P. Flesch
Chief, Hazard Evaluation and
Technical Assistance Branch

| | | | |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET | 1. Report No. NIOSH Report No. TA-79-28 | 2. | 3. Recipient's Accession No. |
| 4. Title and Subtitle Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Report No. TA-79-28, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. | | 5. Report Date 05/00/79 | |
| 7. Author(s) F. Lewis | | 8. Performing Organization Rept. No. | |
| 9. Performing Organization Name and Address Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 | | 10. Project/Task/Work Unit No. | |
| 12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address Same as Box 9 | | 11. Contract/Grant No. | |
| 15. Supplementary Notes NIOSHTIC 00091536 | | 13. Type of Report & Period Covered | |
| 16. Abstracts ABSTRACT: A 90 minute presentation on asbestos (1332214) hazards given on April 11, 1979 by a NIOSH Industrial Hygienist to administrators and personnel of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., is reviewed. The presentation concerned potential and existing asbestos hazards in the facility and was requested by the Institution. No existing hazard was identified, but potential problem areas were discussed along with hazard controls. Responsibility for decisions regarding asbestos control was assigned. It is recommended that permanent communications be established with the Federal Agency Safety Program in Washington, D. C. to assist with responsibilities of worker protection. It is concluded that the extensive resources available to the Smithsonian should be able to deal effectively with this problem. | | 14. | |
| 17. Key Words and Document Analysis. 17a. Descriptors Museums-and-art-galleries KEYWORDS: NIOSH-Publication, NIOSH-Author, NIOSH-Technical-Assistance-Report, TA-79-28, Hazard-unconfirmed, Airborne-contaminants, Airborne-dusts, Environmental-control, 17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms 17c. COSATI Field/Group | | | |
| 18. Availability Statement Available to the public | | 19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED | 21. No. of Pages 3 |
| | | 20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED | 22. Price |



