



burtonenvironmentalserviceslimited

# AsbestosNews

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*From*

*Burton Environmental Services Ltd*



*Edited by Steve Shutler – Technical Director*

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If you have any suggestions for topics that you would like to see included in future editions of “AsbestosNews” then we would be delighted to hear from you. Just email [steve.shutler@bes-online.com](mailto:steve.shutler@bes-online.com)

## ***A tribute to Lester Allen***

Established clients of Burton Environmental Services will be saddened to learn of the tragic death of Lester Allen who was killed in a motor vehicle accident on his way to work on 29 February. Two other members of the company were also seriously injured and several employees received nasty cuts and bruises.

Lester worked for our company for many years and was respected for his knowledge and integrity. He will be greatly missed by the directors and his fellow employees. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Dawn, his children and relatives.

All at BES are looking forward to a speedy recovery by all other colleagues injured in the collision.

In recognition of our gratitude to the emergency services the company and staff have donated to Staffordshire Air Ambulance.

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## ***Complementary entry to the Safety & Health Expo (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008) – Courtesy of Burton Environmental Services Limited***



For the second consecutive year Burton Environmental Services will be exhibiting at the Safety and Health Expo at the NEC Birmingham. This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever with in excess of 22,000 visitors expected to attend the vast array of trade stands, live demonstrations and seminars.

Asbestos will have its own dedicated area including the "Asbestos Theatre" where asbestos related seminars will be held. Steve Shutler has been invited to present a seminar and has chosen the theme of "Assessing the Competence of Asbestos Removal Contractors" – a very topical issue in light of the increasing emphasis on CDM clients to thoroughly vet contractors that they appoint.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend the Expo and BES would be delighted to forward complementary tickets to clients, AsbestosNews readers and their colleagues. All you need to do is drop us an email with a postal address and number of tickets required, following this link [expotickets@bes-online.com](mailto:expotickets@bes-online.com)

We obviously look forward to seeing you on Stand B74, Hall 9.

The Safety and Health Expo has a very informative web site at <http://www.safety-health-expo.co.uk>

## ***Derby Hospital to Become Specialist UK Centre for Mesothelioma***

Derby Hospitals NHS Trust is preparing to become the ninth specialist centre in the UK for the treatment of mesothelioma. This status will enable the hospital to trial new drugs and treatments for this aggressive asbestos induced cancer.

Dr Ruth Aldridge, who is a respiratory consultant, hopes that the centre will be up and running within 6 months. It will be staffed by leading medical experts from the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary and a specialist surgeon from Nottingham City Hospital.

Currently the nearest specialist centre is in Loughborough but the high number of mesothelioma cases associated with heavy engineering industries in Derby justifies a more local facility.

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### ***Technical Issues –***

#### ***Minimising Asbestos Worker Exposure to Asbestos- Dry Stripping with Control at Source.***

Last month we looked at the use of controlled wetting techniques to minimise the release of asbestos during removal and handling of asbestos containing materials.

There can be circumstances, however, when the use of wetting agents is not acceptable. For example work may be taking place in close proximity to live electrical equipment or there may be a chemical residue that could react with liquids.

In these cases it is still mandatory to reduce exposure to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable and dry stripping with control at source provides an acceptable alternative. The commonly encountered methods are:-

- Wrap and cut
- Glovebags
- Direct vacuum
- Enhanced air management

#### ***Wrap and Cut***

This method is used on pipework and vessels such as hot water cylinders. However the plant must be redundant. The asbestos containing insulation and underlying pipe or vessel is wrapped in substantial polythene sheet and securely sealed with cloth backed duct tape. The entire parcel is then cut out and removed. One of the main advantages is that there should be minimal disturbance of asbestos.

Like most things the technique is not quite as simple as it might first appear. Long runs of pipe need to be removed in manageable sections and it may be necessary to remove small pieces of lagging to allow for cutting purposes. There must be sufficient space at the rear of the pipe to allow for wrapping and pipes must be drained and free from potentially harmful chemicals. Enclosure of the work area is often necessary unless the location is remote and if the insulation is already damaged there will be associated decontamination work. Even though the insulation is effectively sealed by the wrapping it is usual to inject dust suppression fluid in case of damage during cutting. The method also presents other hazards including the use of cutting equipment and manual handling.



Dust suppression prior to removal by wrap and cut

### ***Glovebags***

Glove bags are sealed over a section of pipe and the operative can then remove/repair small sections of insulation through integral gloves. Designs vary but there will usually be a pouch for tools and a device to allow a spray nozzle to be inserted to wash down contamination to the base of the bag. The main concern is that should a bag perforate there will be a release of asbestos. For this reason glovebags are usually used within a secondary enclosure unless the site is remote. Other designs are available for ceiling tiles and sprayed coatings.



Using a glovebag to repair a leaking valve on an asbestos lagged pipe

### ***Direct Vacuum***

Direct vacuum removes the asbestos at source using large purpose built plant. It is therefore only suitable for work within enclosures with dry material (or the vacuum line will block). The waste is conveyed to a centralized bagging facility. The main advantage is reduced manual handling but bagging can present significant hazards and all air from the plant requires HEPA filtration. Usually this method is restricted to major contracts due to complexity and set-up costs.

## ***Enhanced Air Management***

EAM controls exposure by the use of a fast flowing air current over the working area and away from the removal personnel. Air is introduced by a blower and the resulting dust laden air stream captured by a large filtered exhaust system. The equipment needs to be accurately balanced to prevent the enclosure becoming pressurized. Specialist training and close monitoring is imperative. Other techniques may be used in combination with EAM.

Next month – Decontamination Facilities

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## ***Prosecutions Reported in the Media***

This month I thought it might be of interest for readers of *AsbestosNews* to hear of a prosecution from main-land Europe.

The European Trades Union Institute has recently reported an appeal by **Alstom Power Boilers** against a maximum fine (Euro 75,000) and a prison sentence for a former Alstom company director for exposing workers to asbestos in northern France.

The French Court of Appeal upheld the fine but reduced the prison term for the director from 9 months to 3 months.  
<http://hesa.etui-rehs.org:80/uk/newsevents/newsfiche.asp?pk=1018>

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## ***Useful Background Information***

The European Trades Union Institute has a searchable database and using the term “asbestos” produces some very informative reference material. Within the current 305 articles are reports on the use of asbestos in Chile, Japan and an alleged cover-up by the medical profession in India from BMJ.com

The format of the database is very user-friendly as it provides a short abstract without having to download the full article.

The web site can be accessed at <http://hesa.etui-rehs.org/uk/newsevents/newsarchive.asp>



## ***Services from B.E.S***

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