

Utility Tunnel Disclosure and Respiratory Protection

Purpose

To reduce the potential for exposure to airborne asbestos in the university's underground utility tunnel system

Source

29 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 1910.134, -1001, -1200, and 1926.1101

Applicability

University employees and outside contractors and consultants who are expected to enter the underground utility tunnel system

Policy

Baylor University has determined that persons working in the underground utility tunnel system may be exposed to airborne asbestos fibers above the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limit. All persons entering the tunnel system shall be notified of the presence of asbestos materials, such as pipe insulation. Therefore, all persons entering the tunnel system to perform work could be required to use respiratory protection approved for asbestos if so warranted by the University's Asbestos Coordinator.

Managers or supervisors of personnel have primary responsibility for notifying university employees. The Facility Services manager or the project manager is responsible for notifying outside consultants and contractors.

Procedure

Managers and supervisors shall notify all persons who will enter the university tunnel system of the following known or assumed asbestos hazards:

Asbestos is present in most thermal system insulation applied to steam, steam condensate, and hot water piping. Most insulation that contains asbestos is painted with the word "asbestos." The disturbance of insulation materials identified as "asbestos" or suspected of containing asbestos is strictly prohibited.

Personal Protective Equipment

Purpose

To protect university employees who work in areas where physical and/or chemical hazards or the potential for these hazards exist by providing the appropriate personal protective equipment

Source

29 Code of Federal Regulations § 1910.132

Applicability

Employees who may be exposed to physical and/or chemical hazards while performing their duties

Policy

Departments and units must conduct a hazard assessment for each work area to determine whether physical and/or chemical hazards or the potential for these hazards to employees exists. If it is determined that hazardous conditions exist, the units must provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to employees. Employees must use the appropriate PPE to protect themselves from any potential hazards.

Hazard Assessment

The employee's supervisor must perform a hazard assessment on a work area to determine whether an employee may be exposed to physical and/or chemical hazards when performing his or her duties. Parts of the body needing protection from hazards may include but are not limited to the head, eyes, ears, face, arms, hands, torso, legs, feet, and respiratory system.

Selection of Personal Protective Equipment

If hazards are identified, the supervisor must determine what PPE is necessary to protect the employee from injury or illness. Damaged or defective PPE must never be used.

PPE shall be provided to the University's employee at no cost. When outside consultants and contractors provide their own protective equipment, the University's Safety Officer will be responsible for inspecting and assuring its adequacy.

All PPE must meet the following American National Standards Institute (ANSI) ratings where applicable.

Training

Supervisors of University employees must ensure that their employees using PPE are trained in proper use and limitations. The training must include the following:

1. a review of the PPE standard
2. an explanation of the completed hazard assessment
3. a written verification of training
4. what type of PPE is necessary and when
5. how to properly utilize and wear PPE
6. how to care for, maintain, and dispose of PPE
7. the limitations and useful life of PPE.

Procedures

For assistance in performing a hazard assessment or to schedule training, contact Baylor University's Department of Risk Management.

Departments must:

1. assess the work area for physical and/or chemical hazards
2. determine which PPE is necessary to protect employees while they perform their duties
3. train employees on the PPE standard and the proper use of PPE as defined
4. document training and maintain records
5. reassess the work area as necessary and retrain employees as necessary.

Risk Management's Health & Safety must:

1. provide information and guidance regarding the PPE standard
2. assist units with the hazard assessment process and
3. provide training for employees in the proper use and maintenance of PPE when requested.

The employee must:

1. wear appropriate PPE while performing duties that require its use
2. properly care for and maintain PPE and
3. report changes in the workplace or PPE conditions to the supervisor.