

Idea EXCHANGE



Repair or replace equipment

Between storms — Tasks for no-snow days

Chris Olson, Street Department Foreman, City of Onalaska accepted the challenge in our Fall 2006 Idea Exchange. He offered five more ideas for projects that staff can work on between snowstorms:

- Trim boulevard trees
- Inspect, clean and cut brush in storm sewer outfalls
- Repair damaged barricades
- Inventory supply and tool rooms, repair broken tools, and prepare orders for new tools/supplies/safety equipment
- Pick up Christmas trees

Low cost ways to keep service techs safe from asbestos

“The simplicity of the wet control does not eliminate the need for correct work practices.”

Download *Asbestos-Automotive Brake and Clutch Repair Work* OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin SHIB 07-26-2006 from: www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib072606.html

Or request a print copy from the TIC.

SHOP WORKERS may not be aware of safety hazards from older and replacement brakes and clutches. Working on these parts without proper precautions can expose them to unsafe levels of cancer-causing asbestos fibers.

You can't tell by looking at a worn brake shoe if it has asbestos, so mechanics should assume that they all do, says a Safety and Health Information Bulletin from the US EPA and OSHA. The bulletin describes asbestos dust control methods for large and small shops, and summarizes good work practices.

High volume shops need an enclosure and filter system to minimize asbestos exposure. Shops doing five or fewer brake and clutch jobs a week can use a simple wet method or an alternate system using solvent in a spray can. The technician can keep asbestos fibers under control by misting the part with a small amount of water from a spray bottle or a low pressure hose nozzle, or spray-on solvent. The water, solvent, and any wipe cloths must be disposed of safely.

“The simplicity of the wet control does not eliminate the need for correct work practices,” the publication warns. Asbestos particles are a hazard when they are in the air, so worker safety

Snow Plow Rodeo Champions

SEVENTY-ONE TEAMS competed at the Wisconsin APWA Chapter's 17th Annual Snowplow Rodeo in September. They drove unfamiliar equipment (UNIMOGS) through an obstacle course in a Lambeau Field parking lot. The event included vendor displays and mechanic training sessions.



Tied for 1st Place KAUKAUNA—Tony Verhasselt (L-ABOVE) and Roy Vanzeeland and GREEN BAY (L TO R-BELOW): Todd Hermes, Tim Giesler, & Todd Frisch.



Other winning teams (NOT PICTURED) were: 3rd Place VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE: Darren Perona and Scott Brennan. 4th Place CITY OF SHEBOYGAN: Scott Buboltz, Mark Pawasarak, and Mark Oldenburg. 5th Place WISCONSIN COUNTY INSURANCE GROUP represented by Jim Kellner from Sauk County and Rod McGee from Polk County.

recommendations include:

- hold the spray nozzle away from the part so particles are not blown into the air
- wet and wipe the outside, then saturate components as they are removed
- clean up spilled water immediately. Don't let it dry
- repair brakes and clutches in an isolated work area
- periodically clean workbenches, floors, etc.
- do not eat, drink or smoke in the brake/clutch work area

- wash hands frequently and change to clean clothes before leaving work

Exposure to asbestos, if not properly controlled can cause debilitating and deadly diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis. Furthermore, symptoms may not appear for years, and even decades, after contact with asbestos fibers.

Don't risk the health of your workers or yourself. Get the right tools and training for asbestos control.