



Underground Asbestos Pipe Cutting & Drilling

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Approved by: Jim Toye, City Manager

Signature:  **Procedure No:** 1.5

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The following procedures will be followed when preparing the area and cutting or drilling Asbestos Containing (AC) Pipe:

1. The area will be excavated in compliance with the City of Prince Albert excavation procedures and will be large enough to permit clearance of all required manpower and tools.
2. Only workers authorized by the foreman/manager and suitably equipped with the proper PPE shall enter the immediate area once the cutting/drilling process begins. Only the number of workers necessary to complete the repair will be used. These workers will not have a high visibility vest in place and, as such, must be escorted to and from the excavation site by someone wearing high visibility outerwear as far from traffic as possible.
3. All workers in the immediate area will wear a half mask respirator equipped with P100 cartridges. Workers must be clean shaven and fit testing to the make/model/size and style of respirator being used.
4. Disposable coveralls shall be worn and duct tape shall be used to seal the coveralls at the wrists and ankle areas.
5. Suitable gloves (i.e. Rubber) shall be worn and they must also be sealed to prevent asbestos from entering.
6. The area of the AC pipe must be wetted and kept wet at all times during the cutting or drilling phase. This must be completed on a continuous basis until the cut(s) are completed. A mixture of water and soap is the preferred wetting agent.
7. The snap cutter tool or directly breaking the pipe are the preferred methods and should be used whenever possible. If this method is used a respirator would be considered optional due to the extremely low risk of contamination.

8. Prior to installing the new pipe section the cut area(s) must be washed down with a chlorine solution.
9. After the pipe has been sealed with the new section, clean up and decontamination should begin.

Clean up and decontamination:

1. Sections of pipe removed shall be placed in a labelled yellow asbestos disposal bag, wetted and wrapped in a double layer of plastic and marked as asbestos or wetted and placed directly in a truck and covered with wet soil. Every effort should be taken to remove these pipe sections from the excavation to reduce future concerns. If the pipe cannot be removed, then it may be buried.
2. For backfilling over damaged pipe, a board should be placed over the pipe and then the excavator used to push the section into the ground. The goal should be to push this section low enough that it will not likely be dug up by future excavations. The board should be left in place and red flagging tape used to warn future excavations of its presence.
3. Tools and equipment used to cut, handle, or drill AC pipe must be thoroughly rinsed in water and tools which cannot be submersed in water must be cleaned using wet /damp rags before removing them from the area where they were used. (Shovels, electric drills, axes, et cetera). Washing should be done so that any asbestos residue is washed into the excavation.
4. The excavation area should then be back filled.
5. Protective clothing shall be wiped down by a damp cloth or rag, removed, and then deposited in a labeled yellow asbestos disposal bag along with the cloth or rag used.
6. Once all equipment, damaged pipe, and clothing are removed, cleaned and sealed, workers will leave the immediate area and then remove the respirator.
7. Respirator cartridges will be removed and placed in the yellow asbestos disposal bag. A second yellow asbestos disposal bag will then be put over top (double bagged).
8. The respirator and workers hands and face will be washed thoroughly.
9. The respirator will be allowed to air dry and then placed back in a sealed bag.