2018 High Risk Strategies and Industry Initiatives

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WORK SAFE BC

Overview

Background

- New three-year development cycle for High Risk Strategies

- Developed in consultation with health and safety associations and other stakeholders

- Examined claims and assessment data

- Identified industries, workplaces and work activities with highest potential for causing serious injury.

What is included?

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High Risk Strategies

Construction

Forestry

Health care

Manufacturing

High Risk Strategies

WorkSafeBC'S High Risk Strategies identify and target industries and employers with a high risk of serious workplace injury and a significant contribution to the serious injury rate. Based on the incidence of serious injuries and work-related deaths, the High Risk Strategies include four industry sectors: construction, forestry, health care, and manufacturing.

Collectively, the High Risk Strategies are designed to reduce the serious injury rate through implementation of risk-reduction tactics directed towards high-risk work activities. The primary role of the High Risk Strategies is to identify categories of serious injuries and to develop planned approaches to effect change, thereby reducing the risk of serious injuries. Each strategy focuses prevention initiatives on identified areas of high risk in order to apply resources and effort where they will be most effective.

See also

- Industry Initiatives

Industry Initiatives

Industry Initiatives
Agriculture
Asbestos: Commercial
Asbestos: Residential
Bullying, Harassment, and Discriminatory Action
Confined Space
Crane
Film and Production
Marine
Occupational Diseases
Oil & Gas
Process Safety
Program and Committee Evaluation (PACE)
Serious Injury Prevention

Industry Initiatives

WorkSafeBC's Industry Initiatives identify additional sectors and subsectors, outside of the High Risk Strategies, with a high risk of serious workplace injury and significant contribution to the serious injury rate. Each initiative focuses prevention efforts on identified areas of high risk in order to apply resources and effort where they will be most effective.

Thirteen industry initiatives have been identified for 2018.

Occupational disease

- Asbestos – commercial
- Asbestos – residential
- Lead, silica sensitizer, solar, and welding fumes

Risk-based / specialty

- Confined space
- Crane
- Film and production
- Marine
- Oil and gas
- Process safety

Vulnerable worker

- Agriculture
- Bullying, harassment and discrimination
- Program and committee evaluation (PACE)
- Serious injury prevention initiative (SIPI)

See also

- High Risk Strategies

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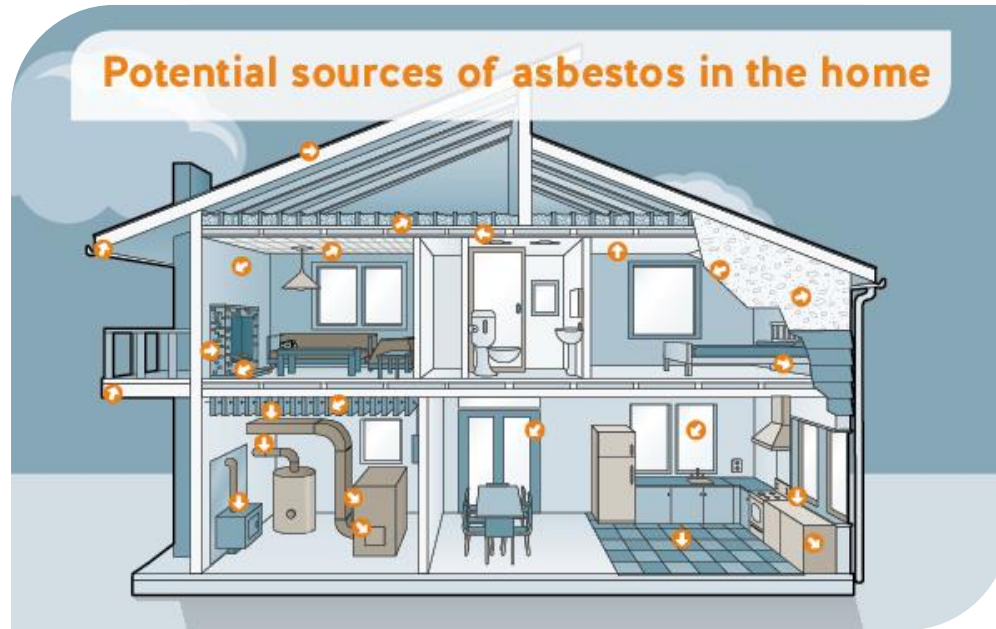# Residential and Commercial Asbestos
John Somerville

The issue

- Asbestos-related lung diseases are preventable

- Asbestos remains the leading cause of work-related deaths in BC

- Exposure to asbestos can be reduced or eliminated with proper planning and oversight

The reality

Potential sources of asbestos in the home

- Asbestos is not always identified and safely removed

- Deficiencies can put not only workers but also the public at risk

- Asbestos-containing materials are entering the waste stream

Goals and approach

- Prevent further and future exposures to asbestos

- Integrated approach:

  - Prevention activities

  - Communication and outreach

  - Tools and resources

  - Collaboration

Residential inspections

- Residential demolition and renovation work sites throughout BC

- Ensure contractors and consultants provide adequate planning and oversight
    - Accurate hazardous material surveys
    - Safe removal of asbestos containing materials
    - Proper disposal of hazardous materials

Commercial inspections

- Commercial building owners and property managers

- Proper identification of asbestos-containing materials and effective asbestos management plans that consider the potential for exposure of their employees, contractors, and tenants
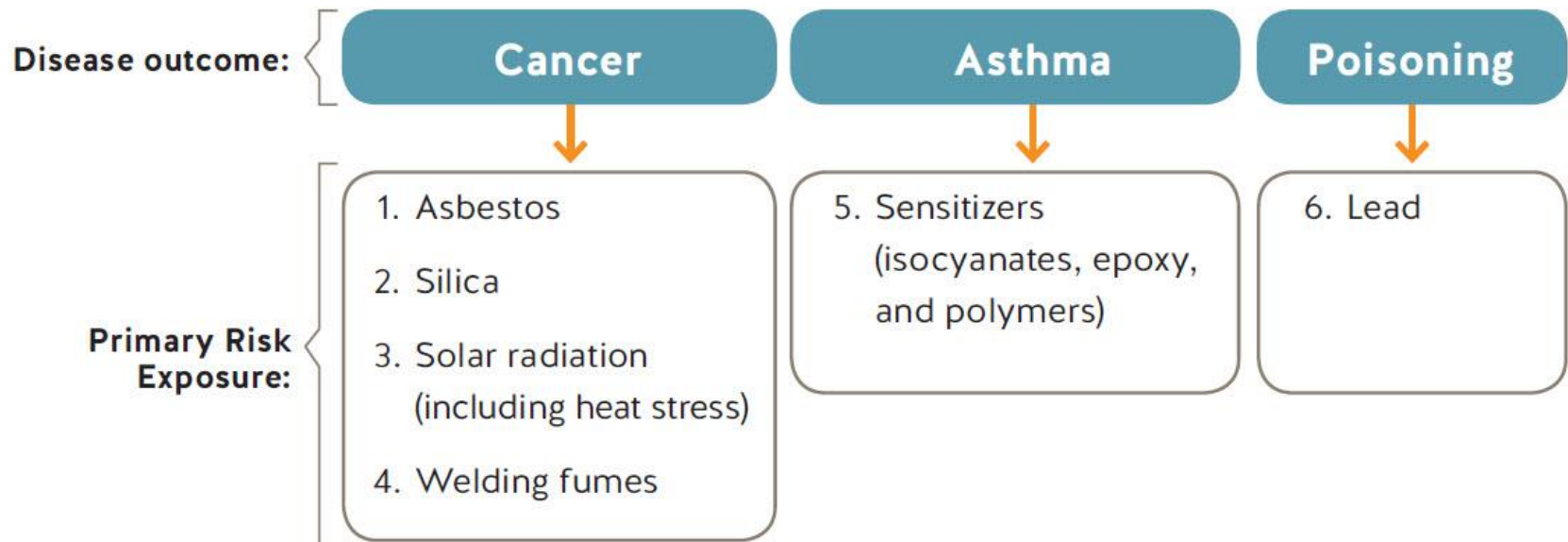
Occupational Disease Initiative
Dion Torhjelm

Goals

- Raise awareness of the risks, hazards, and controls

- Reduce workplace exposure to the six primary risks

Six primary risks

Disease outcome:

Cancer	Asthma	Poisoning

Primary Risk Exposure:

1. Asbestos

2. Silica

3. Solar radiation (including heat stress)

4. Welding fumes

5. Sensitizers (isocyanates, epoxy, and polymers)

6. Lead

Approaches

- Industry awareness

- Support tools and resources

- Targeted inspection programs

Awareness and support resources

- CAREX Canada, Occupational Cancer Research Centre

- Sun Safety at Work Canada – Solar and Heat Stress resources

- BC Construction Safety Association - occupational disease forum April 2018

- Silica Online Assessment Tool

- Safe Work Practices for Handling Lead

- Welding fumes field study and exposure control plan tools

- Sensitizers information sheets, video and exposure control plan templates

Targeted inspection program

Silica	• Construction sector • Oil & Gas industry
Solar radiation	• Construction sector • Municipalities • Agriculture
Welding fumes	• Construction sector • Metal and non-metallic mineral products
Sensitizers	• Construction sector • Plastic manufacturing • Autobody shops
Lead	• Construction sector

Workplace Bullying and Harassment
Ken Blair

Bullying and harassment enquiries

- November 1, 2013 and December 31, 2017 a total of **11,471+** bullying and harassment enquiries received

- This includes:
  - Almost 3,200 specific allegations of workplace bullying and harassment

  - Approximately 500 referrals from WorkSafeBC's claims adjudicators

  - Over 7,000+ general enquires about employer duties, policy, procedure, and training around workplace bullying and harassment

- This translates into an average of almost 70 enquiries per week

Effects of bullying and harassment

On the target

- Distress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, substance abuse, or suicidal thoughts

- Physical illness or impaired concentration or ability to make decisions

- Reduced work performance

On the workplace

- Reduced efficiency and productivity due to poor staff morale

- High absenteeism rates

- High turnover, and associated higher recruitment costs

Key points

- Bullying and harassment is a workplace health and safety issue

- Employer must have:

  - Policy and procedures

  - Training for recognizing, reporting, and responding to incidents and allegations of workplace bullying and harassment

- Workers must report workplace bullying to the employer

- Resources for workers and employers are available on WorkSafeBC.com

Confined Space Initiative
Ken Blair

Incidents

- **2008 Langley -** Three workers died in a confined space at a mushroom farm – two more suffered permanent debilitating injuries

- **2006 Kimberly -** Four bodies were recovered from a water sampling shed

- **2003 New Westminster -** Four workers died in the hull of a barge – 3 of the workers were would be rescuers

- **2002 Oliver -** Two workers died in a winery due to exposure to carbon dioxide at a fermentation tank

- **2001 Ootsa Lake -** A worker died in the hull of a barge. His son was unable to save him

- **1997 Vancouver Island -** A worker at a pulp mill entered a tank without testing the air and collapsed. A second worker at the entrance to the tank also collapsed. They could not be revived
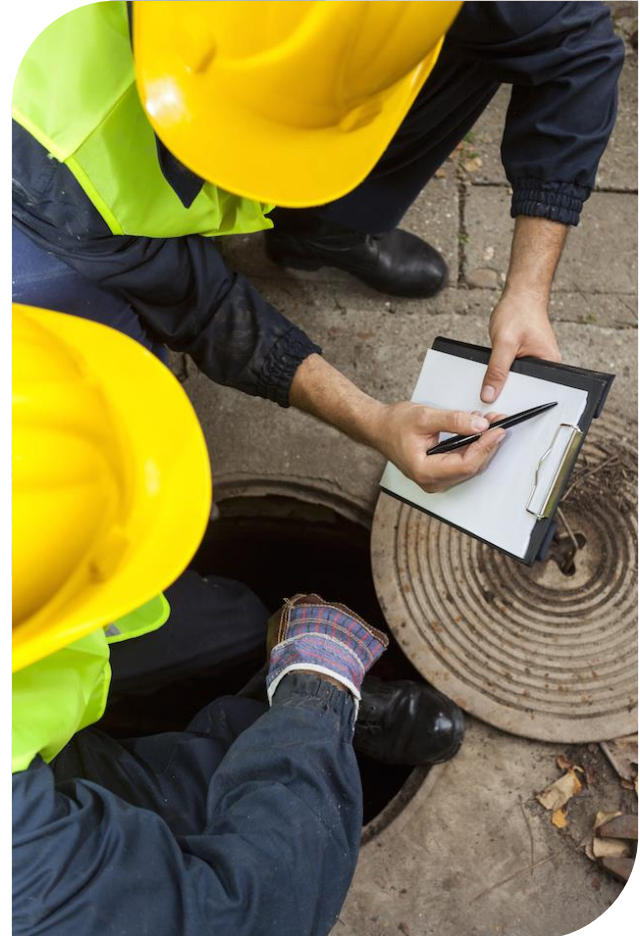
Key outcomes from regulation

- Employer identifies and assesses hazards

- Workers understand hazards

- Effective controls are put in place

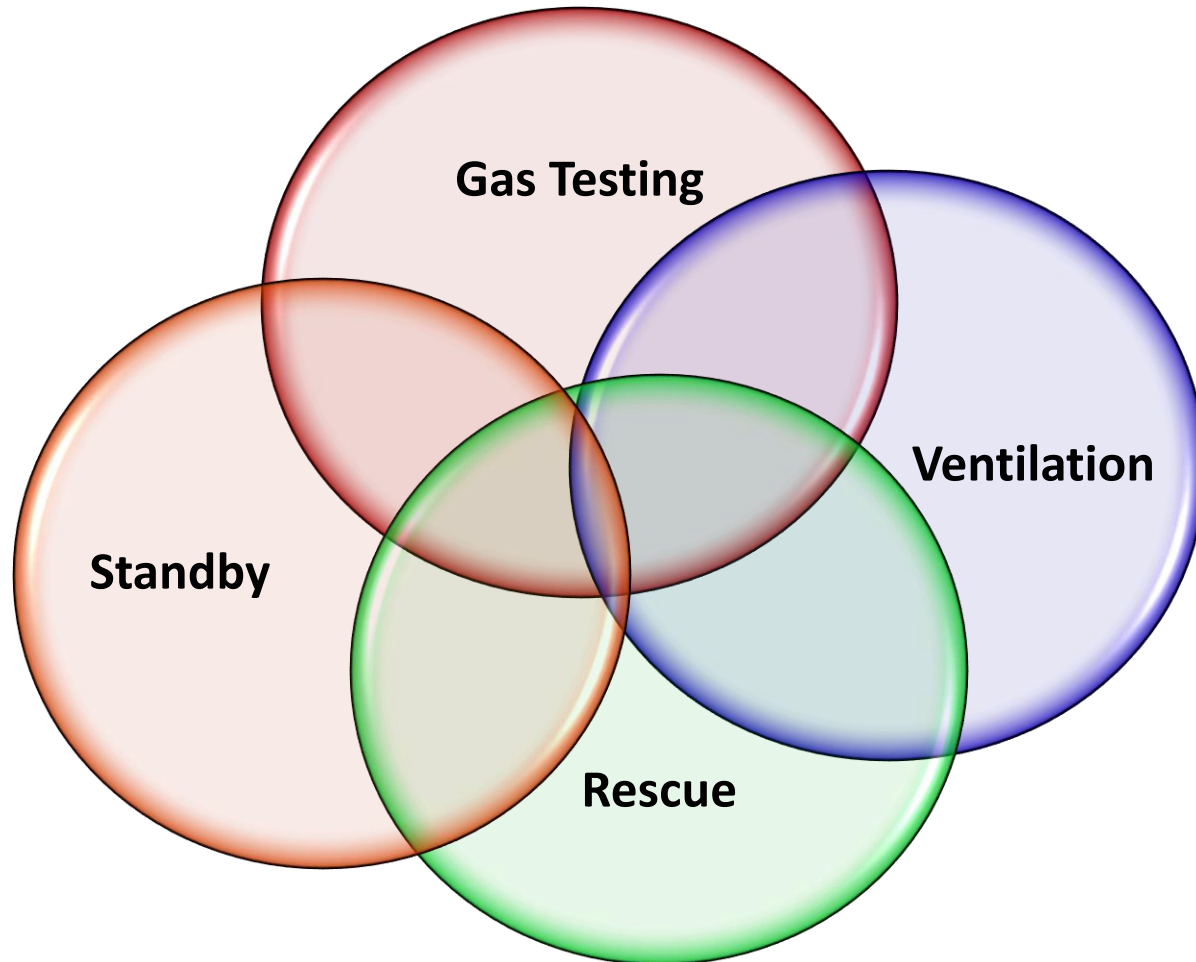**Identify** ▶ **Assess** ▶ **Control** ▶ **Monitor & Verify**
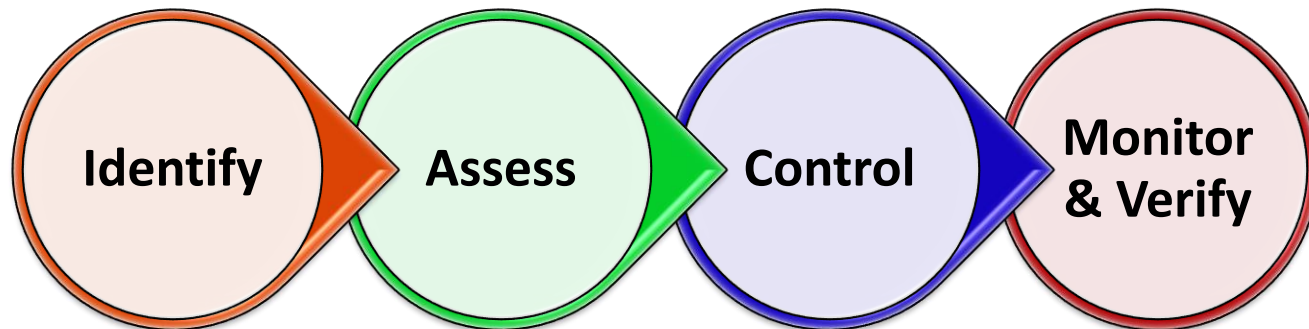
Focusing on outcomes

- Talking to workers

- Do they know the hazards?

- Do they understand the controls?

- Is supervision effective?

Critical controls

Questions