

No job is more important.



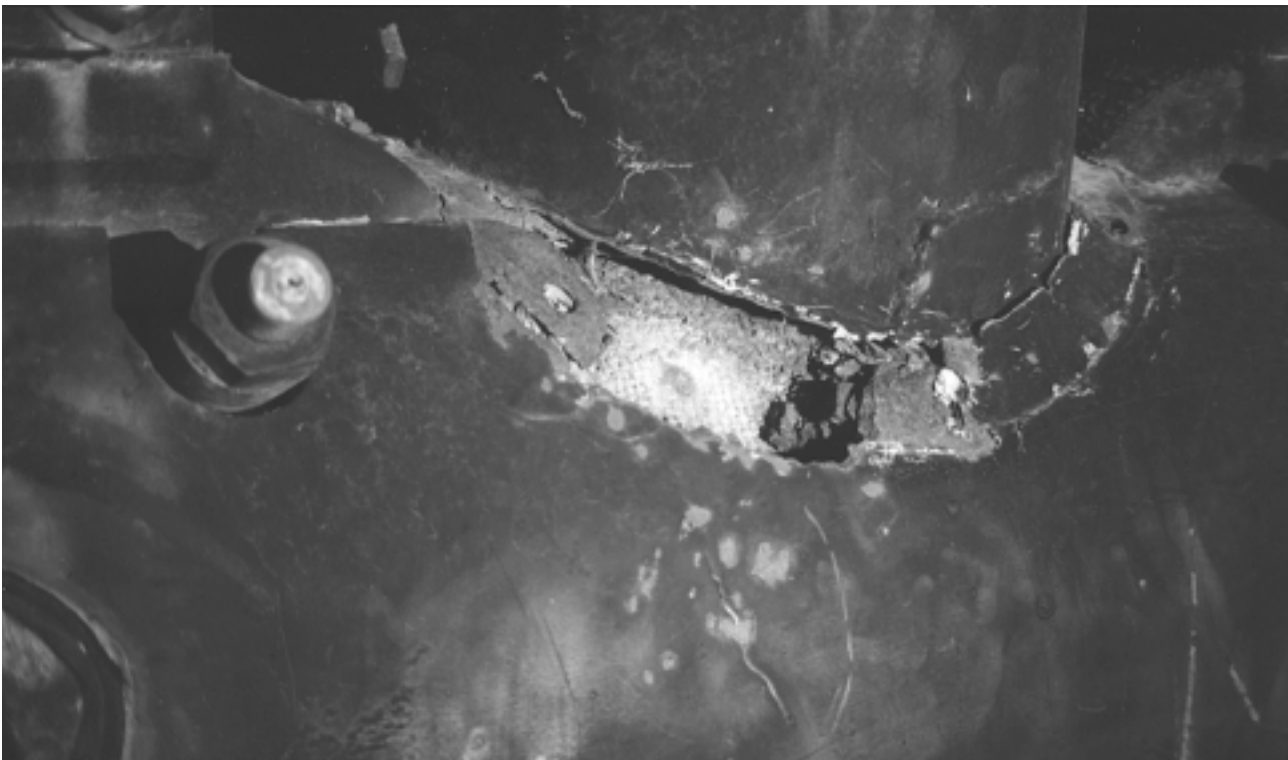
Safety Alert

Nº.6 1998

ASBESTOS EXPOSED IN PLAYGROUND TRAIN

The recent discovery of exposed asbestos at a children's playground in Hobart has highlighted the importance of regular inspection and maintenance of any equipment containing asbestos. The asbestos, in an old train boiler and engine in the playground, was exposed by several rust holes.

The exposed asbestos insulation in the train could have posed a significant risk to anyone disturbing it. In this instance, the council concerned was contacted and took prompt action to repair the holes.



Train boiler showing rust holes and exposed asbestos insulation

Recommendations

- Owners of trains and traction engines including those that the public has access to and that are not known to be free of asbestos, must regularly inspect and maintain their equipment.
- The inspection and maintenance activities must be recorded in a hazard management register.
- Hazard management registers must be kept in accordance with WorkSafe Australia's *Asbestos Code of Practice*. This publication is available from Commonwealth bookshops.

Failure to maintain this equipment could put the public at risk and make the owner liable to be prosecuted for a breach of Section 15 of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*. The maximum fine for such an offence is \$150,000 for a body corporate and \$50,000 for an individual. The possibility of a civil claim should also be considered.

For further information phone the Workplace Standards Authority on
1300 366 322 (inside Tasmania) or (03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania).

Fax: (03) 6233 8338 Email: info@wsa.tas.gov.au Internet: <http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au>

.....
Steve Hyam, Chief Inspector
Workplace Standards Authority
16 July 1998