

*** PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION ***

2011 - 12 SCHOOL YEAR

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

What is Asbestos?

Mineral found in rock formations. When separated from rock, it becomes a fluffy fibrous material that has many uses.

Types?

Chrysotile (most common), Arnosite and Crocidolite

How is Asbestos Used?

Construction Industry: About 2/3 of all asbestos produced is used for cement, roofing, plastics, insulation and floor tile.

Automotive Industry: Widely used as friction material in brake and clutch linings – also as undercoating to protect against corrosion.

Textile Industry: Fireproof clothing and staffs' equipment, fire-resistant curtains for theaters and schools.

Other uses: Asbestos is used to strengthen metals exposed to heat, such as, in the nose cones of space vehicles.

Health Hazards of Asbestos

If air containing asbestos dust is inhaled, the small sharp fibers may work their way into the lung tissue and remain embedded for life – a constant source of irritation.

Various Factors:

1. Intensity of asbestos dust
2. Individual susceptibility
3. Fiber size and variety
4. Presence of other pollutants (cigarette smoke)

Asbestos-Related Disease

Asbestosis: A disease in which lungs are irritated by inhaled asbestos dust – characterized by fibrotic changes in the lung tissue and scarring in the thickening of the lung wall. Breathing becomes difficult, thus causing a strain on the heart. Usually appears 10-20 years after exposure.

Mesothelioma: A cancer of the chest or abdominal lining, which is rare except in people exposed to asbestos. Usually fatal within one year of the first symptom.

Cancer: Of respiratory system – is much more common in asbestos workers than in the general public. There is also a higher rate of cancer of the digestive system.

How Individuals Can Avoid Disturbing Asbestos Containing Material

Every school from K thru 12 must have their buildings inspected by state certified inspectors. This information is compiled in a booklet called the Management Plan. Each school has their Management Plan on file in the administration office and is available for review for those who desire to see it. Getting acquainted with your plan is the best way to avoid disturbing asbestos in your school.

How to Recognize and Report Damage

By using the proper section of the Management Plan that describes type, amount, location and condition of asbestos at the time of the report, you can recognize damaged areas by comparing to the original plans. Visual inspection is the most important way to recognize damaged material.

- Reporting damage: Any material containing asbestos that has become broken or damaged and may be releasing fibers to the air should be reported to management as soon as possible. In turn, management will notify the asbestos coordinator or the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Steps Taken by Diocese of Harrisburg to Insure Safety

1. Prepare Management Plan for each school.
2. Inspect all buildings under AHERA law.
3. Provide two-hour awareness training for all custodial and maintenance staff.
4. Provide and train emergency response team.
5. Set up schedule for surveillance inspections of all schools every six months. (See end of section #4 of Management Plan for each report.)
6. Set up schedule for removal or repair of all friable material in a timely fashion. (See section #6 of Management Plan for work performed, if any.)
 - a. Description of work performed in past 12 months.

Operations and Maintenance
 - b. Description of work planned for next 12 months. If no work is planned, then specify O & M for this section.

Operations and Maintenance
7. Notification through proper channels to all workers/occupants, parents and/or legal guardian of occupants (this report).
8. The six-month periodic surveillance inspection and one reinspection will be continued during the next year.

Receiving this report is an indication that your school does contain some form or forms of asbestos. The Management Plan will describe in detail all the information for your particular school. This plan is located in your school administration office and is available for your review.