

Asbestos Management For FMS

This document is designed to **SUPPLEMENT** your annually-required Asbestos Awareness training and does **NOT** replace it! If you have not had training within the past year, contact EH&S at 8-8182

All University personnel whose work may impact asbestos materials must be aware of certain requirements designed to prevent you from creating an asbestos overexposure to yourself or to others.

Specifically this means:

- Knowing where asbestos materials are located on campus
- Knowing the hazards of asbestos overexposure
- Knowing what work you can and cannot do where asbestos materials may be present

Where Asbestos Materials are Located on Campus

The location of asbestos areas is constantly changing, as material is abated and, occasionally, found where it was not known to be earlier. In each FMS office area there is a list of known areas of asbestos, inside the EH&S binder. Please look through it if you need any questions on locations answered. If any of this information is confusing or if you want to obtain the most current status of asbestos areas, contact EH&S at 8-8182.

Remember that asbestos can take many forms:

- **Surfacing material** like acoustical plaster or fireproofing
- **Thermal materials** like pipe or tank insulation, even pipe elbows and tees
- **Miscellaneous materials** like floor or ceiling tiles (and glues or mastics), lab bench tops, HVAC expansion joints, hard plaster, roofing materials and tar, shingles, fan coil inserts, and lab fume hoods.

Do you remember that any material that contains greater than 1% asbestos is considered asbestos containing?

The Hazards of Asbestos Overexposure

There are three major conditions associated with overexposure to asbestos materials:

Lung Cancer	This is the most common asbestos condition, though many other things cause lung cancer, making it difficult to related to asbestos. Most cases have been associated with long term asbestos exposure.
Asbestosis	This is a non-cancerous scarring of the lung, associated with high, long term exposures
Mesothelioma	This is a rare cancer believed only to be caused by asbestos exposure. Because it is no rare, it is difficult to know what levels of exposure cause it.

Remember: The OSHA standard for asbestos exposure is <0.1 fibers/cc. Carnegie Mellon uses an even lower standard, < 0.01 fibers/cc.

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What Work is Allowed and What is Not

In a nutshell, you CAN do anything that does NOT disturb the asbestos materials. You CANNOT do anything that DOES disturb it.

For example:

NOT ALLOWED:



- **Drilling into, cutting, removing, scraping, digging into, nailing into any asbestos material.**
- **Carpeting over asbestos floor tile**
- **Removing carpeting that pulls up asbestos tile when performed**
- **Hanging anything from asbestos piping or other items.**
- **Renovating an area where the work will disturb the asbestos materials**

ALLOWED:



- **Any repair that will NOT disturb asbestos**
- **Any renovation that will NOT disturb the asbestos in an area**
- **Cleaning or polishing asbestos floor tile (just don't use abrasive materials)**
- **Disturbing or damaging obviously non-asbestos materials like rubber or fiberglass insulation**

Special Situations

Margaret Morrison

In MMCH, we must assume that ALL of the hard plaster is positive for asbestos, due to the results we have on the "brown coat" layer. Any disturbance of the plaster must be done by asbestos contractors.

Morewood Gardens

In the boiler room of Morewood Gardens, the ceiling is asbestos containing. It may not be disturbed for any reason, except by our asbestos contractor.

Hunt Library

On the 4th floor of the Library, there is asbestos fireproofing above the suspended ceiling in the center above and around the Rare Book Room. No one is permitted to lift the ceiling tiles in this area.

If you encounter asbestos that needs to be abated, you must contact Lenny Libbon to have a work order placed for that activity!