



Accidental Asbestos Fiber Releases Procedure

The potential for accidental asbestos fiber release exists in all areas where asbestos is present at the University, particularly in areas with easily accessible or friable asbestos containing materials (ACM). Through the CMU Asbestos Management Program, the risk of fiber release is minimized by means of periodic inspections of suspect and known ACM for physical integrity and employee training to recognize and not disturb any suspect or known ACM.

ACM may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Pipe insulation
- Spray-on Fireproofing
- Acoustical Plaster
- 9-inch x 9-inch floor tiling and associated mastic (adhesive)
- Ceiling tiles and associated mastic

Despite periodic inspections and employee training, ACM may still be accidentally disturbed during routine maintenance, construction, or renovation¹. It may also be deteriorated via water damage, air erosion, vibrations or by other physical means. In the event that damage does occur, it is crucial to ***be familiar with*** this emergency response procedure so that exposure to University students, faculty, staff and other building occupants is reduced to the greatest extent possible.

Each instance of accidental fiber release will vary in size and scope and must be handled on a case-by-case basis. Each release episode, regardless of size and scope, must be reported to EHS as soon as possible. Appropriate training and personal protective equipment is required to clean up and repair ***all*** impacted ACM. As such, only an approved asbestos abatement contractor may respond to known or potential asbestos fiber releases at this time.

¹ If you are ever uncertain whether or not the material you are working on is ACM, stop work immediately and contact your supervisor and appropriate CMU representative. CMU EHS shall be consulted to provide clarification or to collect samples of the suspect material prior to additional work commencing.

The following procedure should be followed by any person causing or knowledgeable of a known or potential asbestos fiber release:

1. Stop all work in the fiber release area.
2. Evacuate the fiber release area immediately. If it is safe to do so on your way out, close all windows within the space and doors that lead to other areas. Never re-enter the release area or attempt to clean up the impacted ACM.
3. Notify your immediate supervisor and the appropriate CMU representative.
4. Report the release to **CMU EHS** at **412-268-8182**. This number is monitored 24/7 to receive emergency EHS phone calls. EHS, with the assistance of the CMU Project Manager, will assess and coordinate additional evacuation of the building (if warranted), further isolation of the release area, cleanup activities, and re-entry approval. Be prepared to provide the following information (additional details may be requested at a later time):
 - a. Location of release [building and room number(s)]
 - b. Date and time of release
 - c. Type and amount of ACM disturbed
 - d. Is the material known or appear to be friable (i.e. can it be reduced to a powder via crushing by hand)?
 - e. Has the immediate release area been evacuated?
 - f. Were doors and windows closed upon evacuating the release area?