

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT  
DPS  
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**



**Q: What is asbestos? (See Photo)**

A: Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral. It was added to thousands of building products for its insulation, fireproofing and tensile properties. Common building components that may contain asbestos are pipe and thermal systems insulation, surfacing material, floor tile, mastics, and roofing materials.

**Q: How can I tell if a material contains asbestos?**

A: The material must be sampled or assumed to contain asbestos. A sampled material must be sent to a laboratory for analysis to determine asbestos content. It is not possible to just look at a material and determine if it contains asbestos. A material that contains more than one percent (1%) asbestos is an asbestos-containing material (ACM).

**Q: Is the presence of asbestos a problem or concern?**

A: The mere presence of asbestos is not a problem as long as the material is in good condition. The concern is when asbestos fibers become airborne. ACM that is friable - can be crumbled or pulverized by hand pressure when dry; is of more concern than intact material – has not been crumbled, pulverized or deteriorated so that asbestos is not longer likely to be bound with its matrix, because it can be disturbed easier.

**Q: How is asbestos regulated?**

A: Asbestos is regulated by both the Federal and State government. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulates all schools regarding such things as inspections, management plans, notifications, training and recordkeeping. EPA National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulates abatement and notification requirements for renovation and demolition activities. The State of Michigan also has regulations associated with abatement contractor licensing, abatement, notifications, worker training and accreditation.

DPS utilizes licensed and accredited contractors and consultants for asbestos work.

**Q: What should one do prior to trade, maintenance, or contractor workers i.e., plumbers, carpenters, electricians, alarm installers, etc., performing work at my site?**

A: All workers must review the Asbestos Management Plan (Red Book) prior to performing any work to determine if asbestos-containing materials (ACM) are within the work area or may be impacted by the work. If there is no disturbance to ACM, work can proceed. However, if a material unknown to be ACM or is ACM, no work is to occur until the material is tested for asbestos and/or is abated. A work order requesting asbestos related work needs to be generated. Call the Facilities Service Center @ 578-7100 to receive a work order number.

**Q: Am I required to notify staff and students of asbestos abatement?**

A: The District provides an annual notification to the community at large regarding asbestos activities throughout the district via mail and can be viewed on the EHS web page. Site specific work is scheduled and coordinated with the Facility Manager or Principal. This information can be posted in the office or staff lounge.

For additional information about asbestos go to: <http://www.epa.gov>