



UCSB Asbestos Notification

Introduction

The purpose of this notification is to inform UCSB building occupants of the presence of Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) in University owned buildings. This notification is in accordance with California State law, section 25915 of the Health and Safety Code.

Background on Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring group of fibrous minerals that have been used extensively in building materials. Such materials include but are not limited to floor tile, mastics, and thermal insulation. The presence of asbestos in building materials does not necessarily present a risk. However, when the material is disturbed, fibers may be released into the air. Thus all asbestos abatement or asbestos work on campus or in campus owned buildings is performed in a controlled environment.

Potential Health Risks

Asbestos fibers can enter the body by inhalation or ingestion. The most common route of exposure is from breathing airborne fibers. Inhaled fibers can then become embedded in the alveoli of the lungs and cause serious health risks. Years of exposure to airborne asbestos fibers may cause numerous disabling or fatal diseases such as asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. Asbestos-containing products may be dangerous if they are damaged or disturbed such that they can potentially release asbestos fibers into the air. Intact, sealed, and undisturbed asbestos products do not pose a hazard.

Asbestos Survey and Sampling

Prior to any renovation or demolition on older campus owned buildings, an asbestos survey is conducted if reports do not already exist or are incomplete. Many of the older University owned buildings contain asbestos in public access areas. These materials may include floor tile, mastics, spray-applied acoustical ceiling, or pipe insulation. These materials do not pose a problem if they are in good condition and are not disturbed. If the material is delaminated, disturbed, or worked on in a non-controlled way, it could result in the release of asbestos fibers into the air. Only trained and licensed Contractors using proper tools, techniques and personal-protection should do such work.

Asbestos Management Plan

At UCSB, ACM's are managed in place until they can be safely removed. Abatement at UCSB is performed under CalOSHA specifications with added precautions when warranted. Some of these specifications includes engineering controls, air testing and clearance air testing, and removal techniques. The UCSB Asbestos Manager oversees asbestos abatement or work.

The following actions are being taken to minimize building occupant exposure:

- Continued monitoring of asbestos in older buildings
- Response to employee concerns regarding exposure
- Maintenance of survey reports
- Education of campus community and training of maintenance staff
- Performance of air sampling and visual inspection of asbestos work areas

For additional information contact the Asbestos Program Manager at gene.horstin@ucsb.edu