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## Risk Element

- Always check the Sites Asbestos Report;
- Plan the task, where necessary, seek advice on materials that may need to be disturbed;
- Don't assume there will always be warning signs. The site could have undiscovered asbestos in area you are working in.

## What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring material once used widely in the construction industry. Its strength, ability to withstand high temperatures, and resistance to many chemicals made it useful in hundreds of applications. However when asbestos is inhaled, it can be harmful and lead to the following diseases:

- Asbestosis;
- Lung cancer;
- Mesothelioma (Cancer of the lining of the chest and/or abdomen).

## Where Asbestos can be Found?

- Sprayed-On Fireproofing;
- Pipe and Boiler Insulation;
- Loose Fill Insulation;
- Asbestos Cement Products;
- Acoustical Plaster;
- Acoustical Tiles;
- Vinyl Asbestos (Floor Tiles);
- Gaskets;
- Roofing Felts;
- Asphalt/Asbestos Limpet Spray;
- Drywall Joint-Filling Compound;
- Coatings and Mastics.

## Prior to Commencing Work

### Supervisors:

- (a) Prior to commencing work in any area, request a copy of the Sites Asbestos Report.
- (b) If there is asbestos in the work area and it needs to be removed to perform the work, request that it is removed.
- (c) Do not commence work until J & E Hall have received a notice from the Site, in writing, that the asbestos has been removed and it is safe to commence or return to work.
- (d) If there is asbestos in the work area and its presence does not affect the work, advise workers of location and what not to disturb.

### Workers:

- (a) In all projects, bear in mind the possible presence of asbestos.
- (b) If you are working in an area known to contain asbestos, contact your supervisor to determine whether or not asbestos is present in the work area or adjacent areas in which you may be working.
- (c) If there is any doubt about pipe or duct insulation, textured ceilings, vinyl asbestos floor tile, flooring sheet goods, wall cladding or underground piping, especially in older facilities, do not commence work and notify your supervisor.

## Personal Protective Equipment

To remove Asbestos you require knowledge of the type of asbestos, knowledge of the proper choice and use of PPE and Respirators, understanding of containment procedures and knowledge of proper handling, storage and waste removal procedures. For almost all removals, training is a legal requirement.

Any removal of asbestos will NOT be done by J & E Hall or subsidiary companies.

If working in an area known to contain asbestos, it may be best to take precautions in wearing the appropriate PPE:

- Respirator;  
**NOTE: Respirator must be the last piece of PPE to be removed to reduce the likelihood of fibres being inhaled.**
- Safety boots;
- Disposable overalls, one size too big to reduce the likelihood of ripping Type 5 (BS EN ISO 13982-1);
- Single use disposable gloves Type FFP3;
- Goggles;
- Helmet when required;
- Asbestos awareness training must be up to date.

## Safe Working Method if Asbestos is Found

- Stop work immediately or instruct anyone you suspect who damages or discovers potential asbestos to stop work immediately;
- Follow the process flow below and complete a risk assessment to decide who must do the work - you may need a licensed contractor;
- Minimise the spread of contamination to other areas;
- Keep exposures as low as you can.

**Do not remove or disturb asbestos containing material. If you are unsure, stop work and contact your supervisor.**

The Process Flow below describes what to do if you find asbestos during a job.

The Process Flow chart also applies where asbestos is damaged by accident.

