

Asbestos Awareness

In addition to the physical hazards that can be found in construction, there are many health hazards that workers should be aware of for their own protection. Most workers have heard of asbestos but may not understand why it should be a concern.

This topic will help describe where asbestos can be commonly found, how workers may be exposed or contaminated by asbestos, the dangers of it, and steps to take to insure safety when

asbestos is encountered.

THERE ARE 6 TYPES of ASBESTOS



Chrysotile

Amosite

Crocidolite

Tremolite

Anthophyllite

Actinolite

OSHA Standard 1926.1101

covers all construction work involving asbestos containing materials including demolition, removal, repairs, maintenance, or renovation, and installation of products containing asbestos.

Why is asbestos so dangerous?

According to OSHA, asbestos is known to cause cancer in humans and can cause chronic lung disease and other health hazards.

Workers may not know they are contaminated because symptoms of these health hazards and even cancer may take many years to develop following exposure to the asbestos containing material.

- When asbestos is disturbed it breaks down into tiny fibers that can easily be inhaled into the lungs.
- Only workers who are specially trained and equipped can install, remove, or disturb asbestos containing materials.
- Proper protective equipment must be worn at all times, depending on the type of activity performed.

OSHA Standard 1926.1101(e)(2) states that regulated areas shall be demarcated [barricaded or marked].

Remember these important tips to avoid health hazards from asbestos:

- **Asbestos is dangerous** because when it is disturbed it breaks down into tiny fibers that can easily be inhaled into the lungs.
- Asbestos is known to **cause cancer** and other chronic diseases.
- Never enter into a restricted asbestos area. Read and **follow warning signs** or barricades.
- Asbestos can be found in many areas such as siding, floor tiles, and insulation. If you aren't sure it contains asbestos **do not disturb it!**
- **Only workers who are specially trained and equipped can install, remove, or disturb asbestos** containing materials.

