

## ASBESTOS INFORMATION SHEET

This informational sheet was prepared in response to questions regarding the Employee Asbestos Notification and asbestos containing materials in the Department of the Youth Authority's buildings.

**What is Employee Asbestos Notification form?**

Effective January 1, 1989, Section 25915, Health and Safety Code, requires State agencies which occupy buildings constructed prior to 1979, and know of the presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM) in the building to provide written notification to employees within 15 days of knowledge and annually thereafter.

In 1987, the Department of General Services, Asbestos Program, completed the first Asbestos Survey Reports for the Department for buildings. Annual employee asbestos notifications have been made since January 1, 1989, with the best information available to the Department. Beginning in 1997, staff were asked to sign, date and return the Employee Asbestos Notification for recordkeeping purposes. Your signature only acknowledges that you have read and received a copy of the Employee Asbestos Notification.

**What is asbestos?**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber found in rocks. Asbestos fibers are divided into two groups, serpentine and amphibole. The most common forms are chrysotile asbestos (from serpentine rock), amosite and crocidolite (from amphibole rock). Because asbestos fibers are strong, do not conduct heat or cold, and are durable, asbestos was commonly used as fireproofing, as an insulator, and in many building construction materials.

**Is asbestos dangerous?**

In order for asbestos to be a health risk, fibers must be released from the material and be present in the air for us to breathe. Materials that are easily crushed by hand pressure and release asbestos fibers are considered friable (ex., thermal insulation, sprayed on acoustical ceilings). Non-friable materials (ex., mastic, floor tile), which do not readily release airborne asbestos fibers, are hard and cannot be crushed by hand pressure. Most people exposed to small amounts of asbestos, as we all are in our daily lives, do not develop asbestos related health problems.

Asbestos is linked with lung disease and the symptoms of disease do not appear until 15 to 30 years after exposure. Asbestosis, which is scarring of the lung, lung cancer, and mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the chest abdominal wall, are linked with asbestos exposure. Asbestos and lung disease have been noted with high exposure and with years of exposure, such as with asbestos miners and manufacturer workers. Smoking with asbestos exposure increases the risk of lung disease.

**What can I do to reduce my exposure to asbestos fibers?**

Do not disturb the ACM or assumed ACM that has been identified in your building survey. For instance, do not push furniture against ACM, knock objects into ACM, hang plants or drill holes into ACM. If the ACM is not disturbed, there are not fibers released into the air.

Note any changes of ACM or assumed ACM in your building to your supervisor, such as increased water damage, increased weathering, ACM separating from other building material. The key is to repair or remove damaged ACM before it releases airborne fibers.

**What do I do if I find some debris from a damaged area in the building?**

If possible, close the area off and report to your supervisor. The asbestos building survey will be able to determine whether the debris is ACM or assumed ACM. Do not disturb the debris if it is ACM or assumed ACM. Only properly trained staff may clean up ACM and/or take a sample to test assumed ACM for asbestos.

### **Will I get lung disease from being in this building with asbestos?**

No one can predict the future with absolute certainty, but based on what science knows at high exposures levels, scientists have made predictions on what the chances are of asbestos related deaths. The prediction is known as a risk assessment and it is not an exact science. Many assumptions are made about exposure, from how long is the exposure (10 to 73 years) to the age (0 to 25 years old) of the individual when first exposed will die per year due to asbestos building exposure. Other scientific communities', such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission or National Academy of Sciences, predict the risks ranging from 10 to 15 persons out of every million exposed.<sup>1</sup>

**The table below is intended to help put these predictions into perspective. The risks in the table are based on actual mortality statistics.**

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Risk per year</b>
Asbestos (prediction) <sup>1</sup>	1 in 1,000,000 to 1 in 67,000
Motor vehicle <sup>2</sup>	1 in 4,500
Falls <sup>2</sup>	1 in 13,000
Home Accident <sup>2</sup>	1 in 83,000
Smoking <sup>3</sup>	1 in 1,000
Environmental Tobacco Smoke <sup>4</sup>	1 in 5,000

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<sup>1</sup> L.M. Thomas, "EPA Study of Asbestos-Containing Materials in Public Buildings: A Report to Congress," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C., February, 1988.

<sup>2</sup> Selected from Hutt, Food, Drug, Cosmetic Law J., 33:558-589

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1991.

<sup>4</sup> Circulation, January 1991, Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, and William W. Parmley, MD, U.C. San Francisco.

This is to notify employees working at: Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Center  
ADDRESS

9850 Twin Cities Road, Galt, CA 95632

Effective January 1, 1989, Assembly Bill 3713, Chapter 1502, Statutes of 1988, Health and Safety Code, Subsection 25915 et seq., requires State agencies which occupy buildings constructed prior to 1979, and know of the presence of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in the building, to provide written notification to employees within 15 days of knowledge. Employees new to the building shall be provided this information within 15 days of commencing work in the building. Please refer to the State Administrative Manual Section 2591.

Airborne asbestos levels in buildings are much lower than those in industrial workplaces where serious health effects such as lung cancer and asbestosis have been observed. However, it is important for employees to follow proper work practices to minimize the potential for disturbing ACM. Avoid touching asbestos materials on walls, ceilings, pipes, or boilers. Do not drill holes, hang plants, or other objects from walls/ceilings made of ACM. Do not disturb ACM when replacing light bulbs. **If you find ACM that has been damaged, report it to your supervisor. Do not disturb damaged asbestos material or asbestos debris.** Only person authorized and properly trained should perform any work which may disturb asbestos materials.

ACMs have been identified in the following locations within the CTC:

- Buildings – C, E, F, G (Pipe lagging in ceiling chase)
- Encapsulated within various wood fireproof doors (fireproof door filler)

Asbestos-containing materials pose no threat to your health unless asbestos fibers become airborne due to material aging, deterioration, or as the result of some damage. Asbestos conditions may vary, and where ACM have been identified in State building surveys, the materials were generally in good condition, enclosed, encapsulated, or of a type not likely to release fibers unless disturbed.

Any employee may review the asbestos survey report, results of bulk sampling, or air monitoring conducted in this facility. All asbestos-related data will be available during normal business hours at the Plant Operations office at:

ADDRESS

9850 Twin Cities Road, Galt, CA 95632

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and received a copy of Employee Asbestos Notification  
(Please Print Name)

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE

DATE