Safe Work Instruction - Accidental Disturbance of Asbestos by Workers

DO NOT complete this activity unless you have been inducted in its safety aspects by an Authorised Experienced Operator or Supervisor

This SWI may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process. Additional training may be required for high risk plant. Site and task may change required PPE.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Protective body clothing must be worn (disposable coveralls fitted with hood and cuffs)

Long and loose hair must be contained or covered.

Eye protection must be worn

Foot protection must be worn

Hand protection must be worn

P1 Respiratory Protection Equipment EPR must be worn

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

Manual Task Injury
Manual task injury from repetitive movements

Other
Exposure to contaminated air

Other
Exposure to asbestos

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Stop works in the vicinity of the asbestos immediately
- ✓ Inform the site supervisor immediately, inform necessary workers and record the incident
- ✓ Evacuate the area
- ✓ Provide personal protective equipment and briefing to appropriately trained workers who will respond to the incident
- ✓ Restrict access to the area and ensure only appropriately trained and equipped council workers attend the site
- ✓ Exclude the public from the site and provide information to the public if in a public area

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Wet surfaces to reduce the dust levels
- ✓ Prevent the spread of contamination by using wash down facilities
- ✓ Provide information, training and supervision to all workers potentially at risk
- ✓ Contact SafeWork NSW to report the disturbance. Note: SafeWork NSW must be immediately notified if persons are likely to be effected by asbestos fibres or if an air monitoring process records a level above 0.02 fibres/ml of air
- ✓ Implement an air monitoring program to assess asbestos exposure levels and specific risk control measures
- ✓ Liaise with or consult the appropriate agencies
- ✓ Seek advice from an occupational hygienist
- ✓ Follow the Code of practice on how to safely remove asbestos (catalogue no. WC03561)

ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Decontaminate the work area using wet wiping or where wet wiping cannot be performed due to other hazards (e.g. electrical) use dry decontamination methods such an asbestos vacuum cleaner.
- ✓ If an item is not able to be decontaminated, or is not suitable for decontamination, it should be placed in a sealed container and disposed of in accordance with the WHS Regulations.
- ✓ Personal decontamination involving the removal of all visible asbestos dust/residue from PPE and RPE must be undertaken each time a worker leaves the asbestos removal work area and at the completion of the asbestos maintenance or service work.
- ✓ Personal hygiene and careful washing are essential. Particular attention should be paid to the hands, fingernails, face and head.
- ✓ Ensure that asbestos materials are disposed of at a facility licensed to accept asbestos materials, and where contractors have been engaged to dispose of asbestos waste, sight proof of appropriate disposal through weighbridge dockets or similar documentation
- ✓ Update the asbestos register and notify workers of any newly identified asbestos locations

DO NOT

- ✗ Remove contaminated items, tools, equipment and clothing from the work area affected by asbestos unless they have been decontaminated or contained.