



Enforcement Division

Advisory

**To: Residents Facing Home Demolition
and Clean-up after State Declared Fire
Emergencies in Non-delegated Air
Districts**

Number 443

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ASBESTOS REMOVAL AND DEMOLITION AFTER STATE DECLARED FIRE EMERGENCIES IN NON-DELEGATED AIR DISTRICTS

BACKGROUND

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been added to various types of building construction materials to increase fire resistance, strength, and durability. Exposure to asbestos can result in health ailments such as lung cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the linings of the lungs and abdomen), and asbestosis (scarring of lung tissues that results in constricted breathing). The addition of asbestos to building materials has never been completely banned. Asbestos containing materials (ACM) may be part of your building, even if it was recently constructed. When building materials are burned, asbestos fibers may remain in the ash. The ash and remaining building debris may need to be treated as asbestos-containing waste material (ACWM), unless a California Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC) or Site Surveillance Technician (SST) determines that the debris is asbestos-free.

A number of local, state, and federal regulations, including National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), cover the safe handling and proper disposal of debris/ash potentially contaminated with asbestos. The following information attempts to provide information to homeowners to help minimize the release of asbestos into the environment in the aftermath of a fire. For specific requirements of the NESHAP and/or local air quality regulations, please contact your air district or the Air Resources Board (ARB).

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CLEANUP

- Suspected or known ACM must be removed by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor and disposed of at a landfill approved to receive asbestos. Some exemptions may apply to single-family houses. Contact your air district or ARB to determine if the clean-up of your home is subject to applicable asbestos control regulations.
- Where ACM is known to be present, the debris/ash should be stabilized by wetting and covering with plastic sheeting until it is removed.
- Avoid mixing of asbestos-containing materials with other debris/ash. Use adequate wetting for all debris removals and demolitions. For wetting, use a dispenser or water hose with a nozzle for a fine, low-pressure spray or mist. Where necessary, use water mixed with wetting agent, such as liquid soap or other surfactant.

- Where ACM is suspected to be mixed with debris/ash, the debris/ash may be assumed to be ACM and should be adequately wetted, wrapped in thick plastic sheeting ("burrito-wrapped"), properly labeled, and disposed of as ACWM. A survey by a CAC or SST may be conducted to distinguish ACM from other debris/ash in order to reduce the amount of material that needs to be disposed of as ACWM.

REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS

Contractors, owners, or operators are responsible for notifying ARB 10 working days prior to proceeding with regulated asbestos removals and/or demolitions. In the event of a fire emergency, the 10 working day waiting period may be waived. Asbestos notification forms and instructions can be obtained by calling (916) 322-6036 or from ARB's website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/asbestos/asbestos.htm>.

Indicate "Emergency-related" on the top of the standard notification form. If a building has been condemned by a city or county agency, indicate this fact in the notification and include a copy of the order.

Mail Original Notification Form to U.S. EPA	Mail <u>copy</u> of Original Notification Form to ARB*
U.S. EPA Region 9 Asbestos NESHAP Notification (Air 5) 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, California 94105	ARB Enforcement Division Asbestos NESHAP Program P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, California 95812

* Optionally, completed notifications may be sent to ARB via fax, at (916) 445-7986.

CONTACT THE AIR RESOURCES BOARD IF YOUR RENOVATIONS AND DEMOLITIONS ARE IN THE FOLLOWING NON-DELEGATED COUNTIES:

Amador	Butte	Calaveras	Colusa	El Dorado	Glenn	Imperial
Lassen	Mariposa	Nevada	Placer	Plumas	Shasta	Sierra
Siskiyou	Sutter	Tehama	Tuolumne	Yuba		

If your renovation or demolition is not taking place in any of the counties identified above, please contact your local Air District for information regarding the steps you are required to take in your area. A map of California's delegated and non-delegated Air Pollution Control Districts is available at the following website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/asbestos/asbmap.htm>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is my single family residence damaged by a fire subject to the asbestos regulation?

The asbestos NESHAP exempts single family residences from the requirements, even if the asbestos cleanup or demolition work is performed by a certified contractor; however, multiple

homes and structures on the same property may be subject to the NESHAP requirements. The cleanup of fire debris or the demolition of more than two structures by the same contractor may be regulated, even if those structures are not on the same property or owned by the same owner. All public and commercial properties are regulated under the asbestos NESHAP. Contact your local air district or ARB to determine if locally adopted regulations are more stringent.

How can I tell if the debris/ash from a fire may be contaminated with asbestos? My home was built recently; can I assume it doesn't have any asbestos?

You can't tell if something has asbestos in it just by looking at it. The debris and ash must be inspected by a CAC or SST to make this determination. The alternative is to treat all of the ash and debris as ACWM.

What steps should a homeowner take?

Although the asbestos NESHAP regulation may exempt single family residences from requirements, a homeowner should consider having a CAC or SST inspect the property for asbestos. If asbestos is present, a homeowner should consider having the debris/ash removed by a certified contractor. Contact your local air district or ARB to determine if locally adopted regulations are more stringent.

CALIFORNIA ASBESTOS REGULATORY CONTACTS

United States Environmental Protection Agency (415) 947-8704
<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos>

California Air Resources Board Asbestos NESHAP Program (916) 322-6036
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/asbestos/asbestos.htm>

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (800) 728-6942
 Disposal and transport of asbestos-containing materials:
<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>

California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) (916) 574-2993
 Asbestos Consultants:
http://www.dir.ca.gov/databases/doshcaccsst/caccsst_query_1.html

Asbestos Contractor Registration Unit:
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/acru/acruhome.htm>

California State Licensing Board
 Check a Contractor's License (800) 321-2752
<https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicense/CheckLicense.aspx>