



SAFETY TALK

Asbestos

Once a commonly used material for its fire-resistant and insulative properties, asbestos still remains prevalent in older construction sites.

What's the danger?

The most prevalent danger with asbestos is the inhalation of small, loose fibers. These fibers become airborne when the material becomes friable through removal or cutting.

Continued inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause several long-term health conditions such as difficulty breathing, pneumonia, heart disease and asbestosis (when the lungs become scarred and stiffen over time from these fibers).

Long-term exposure can also cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer to the lining of the lungs and the abdomen. These conditions take years or decades to develop from the initial exposure time, with smokers being at an increased risk.

Protect yourself

- Know the appearance of and likely places for asbestos
- Be familiar with your asbestos safe-handling practices and procedures along with provincial asbestos regulations
- Wear all necessary PPE when working with or near asbestos
- If you do find materials coated or containing asbestos report them to your supervisor and other workers
- If asbestos is present, an asbestos-control plan must be developed and include elements such as safe-work procedures and emergency contact information

Refer to section 37 of the Workplace Safety and Health regulations for detailed legal requirements regarding asbestos safety requirements, responsibilities, procedures and handling.

For a guide on asbestos management please see <https://www.safemanitoba.com/Resources/Pages/Guide-for-Asbestos-Management.aspx>

Print and review this talk with your staff, sign off and file for COR™ / SECOR audit purposes.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Performed by: _____

Location: _____

Concerns:

Corrective Actions:

Employee Name:

Employee Signature:

