Asbestos is a natural mineral used in many products. Previously asbestos was used for insulation against heat or noise and for fire protection. Asbestos is a hazardous material. If proper precautions are not taken for work around asbestos, workers may develop serious chronic health problems or even die of an asbestos-related disease.

**A green sign with white outline of a person running

Description automatically generatedHow can you become exposed to asbestos?**

**Tips for Reducing Your Risk of Asbestos:**

In an occupational setting, asbestos fibres have an increased risk of becoming airborne when asbestos containing material is disturbed (through breaking, drilling, cutting, sawing, sanding, etc.). The fibres are extremely fine and can remain suspended in the air for hours. Asbestos is not a risk when it is encased in another material and not disturbed.

**Reduce your risk:**

* Know which buildings you work in contain Asbestos.
* If a product contains Asbestos never smash, break, cut, grind, or disturb it in any manner.
* Replace asbestos containing products where possible.
* Never smoke, eat, or drink in areas where asbestos exposure is possible. Smoking will damage your lungs making it harder to expel the asbestos fibers.
* Make physical modifications to facilities, equipment, and processes.
* Change work practices and receive training.
* Use the hierarchy of controls and plan your work accordingly.

**As of January 4, 2024, training, certification, and licensing requirements are now in effect. To learn more, scan the QR code below.**

Workers with the highest risk of breathing the fibres in municipalities are:

* Carpenters, plumbers, and electricians;
* Building inspectors;
* Painters;
* Public Works/Operations workers; and
* Other contractors.

**Health effects from asbestos exposure**

Breathing in airborne fibres released from disturbing asbestos damages the lungs causing serious health problems. This includes – Asbestos, Lung Cancer, Mesothelioma, and Pleural thickening. The risk of developing the diseases increases with the amount of asbestos in the air that is inhaled and the length of time of exposure.

When exposed to the fibres the illness does not develop right away; it may take years. It is important to report any incident of exposure to your supervisor.

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| * Identify and mark the boundary of the designated work area. Use barricades and fences. * Clear the area being worked on. * Ensure windows, doorways and all other openings are sealed and secured. * Post signage to make others aware of the asbestos work in progress. * Identify the hazards and precautions required to enter the area. * Restrict entry into work zone to authorized personnel only. |

**What should be done before working with asbestos containing material?**

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| **MEETING DESCRIPTION** | | | |
| **Meeting Date:** |  | **Time:** |  |
| **Location:** |  | **Supervisor:** |  |
| **Number in Crew:** |  | **Number Attended:** |  |
| **Attended By:** |  |  | **Absent** |
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| **REVIEW ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** | **INCIDENTS/INJURIES REVIEWED** |
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| **TOPICS DISCUSSED** |
| 1. **Asbestos Awareness** |
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| **WORKERS CONCERNS** |
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| **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN** |
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| **MEETING CONDUCTED BY** | | | |
| **Supervisor:** |  | **Manager:** |  |
| **Date:** |  | **Date:** |  |