

Asbestos Awareness Information

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral that was used in various building materials and industrial products.

Where might I encounter asbestos-containing materials while working at PFW?

Asbestos is found in a number of building materials, including: sprayed-on insulation, trowled-on insulation, acoustical plaster, pipe insulation, boiler insulation, duct insulation, floor tile, transit cement board, vinyl flooring, wire insulation and ceiling tiles. It is also used as thermal insulation in some devices and in friction products such as brake shoes. **The following mechanical rooms have spray-on which is known to contain asbestos fibers: NF B58, NF B84, NF B26 and LB B60.** If you notice that the spray-on in these rooms has been disturbed (i.e. the material has been knocked loose), **contact REM ASAP for clean-up.**

Why should I be concerned about asbestos?

Over-exposure to asbestos has been shown to cause two types of lung disease (asbestosis and mesothelioma), as well as cancers of the lung and peritoneum. Diseases associated with asbestos exposure were caused by high, long-term exposure and, much less often, by very high short-term exposure.

Will having asbestos-containing material in my work area hurt me?

No. Asbestos must be airborne and inhaled in order to be harmful, and asbestos-containing materials must be disturbed to become airborne.

What should I do if I have to work on or with a material I suspect may contain asbestos?

Contact your foreman or supervisor. He/she will contact REM personnel and request a sample of the material be analyzed for asbestos.

What should I do if my intended work operation will disturb asbestos-containing materials?

Contact your foreman or supervisor. He/she will contact REM, who will have asbestos-containing materials removed in a safe manner using properly trained and certified personnel.

What type of work practices might cause me to be exposed to asbestos at PFW?

Sweeping asbestos-containing debris, improperly removing asbestos-containing materials, disturbing asbestos-containing materials (sawing, drilling, sanding or otherwise)

Who can I contact if I have any questions regarding asbestos?

Call Radiological and Environmental Management at 481-4193.

Employee name (please print)

Training date

Employee signature

Department

Supervisor's Name

Training given by

Supervisors/DITs:

Please keep a copy of this certification page & distribute completed forms to:
Radiological & Environmental Management (SB, room SB G48)