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**FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK**  
**Guidance and Instruction**  
**ASBESTOS**

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WHAT IS IT?

Asbestos is the name for a group of naturally occurring minerals. When mined and processed, it takes the form of very small fibers that are usually invisible to the naked eye. These individual fibers are generally mixed with a material that binds them together so that they can be used in many different products. Asbestos became a popular commercial product because it is strong, won't burn, resists corrosion, and insulates well. Because of these properties, asbestos has been used for a variety of purposes including thermal, acoustical and decorative purposes and to insulate boilers, pipes, and many construction materials. Its commercial use in the United States began in the early 1900's. The peak years of asbestos use were from World War II until the 1970's. These products became widely used before the health effects were fully understood. We now understand that the health effects are severe, even with relatively small exposures.

If asbestos is in good condition and intact, it does not present a health hazard. Asbestos becomes a health hazard when it is in poor condition and is easily accessible. Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) that is capable of being crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure is described as "friable." Friable ACM presents a higher potential for release of fibers and human exposure.

Once emitted into the atmosphere, these fibers can remain suspended in the air for many hours. This increases the chance that someone will inhale them. Inhalation of asbestos fibers has been linked to cancer and other diseases in humans. These diseases do not develop immediately after inhalation of asbestos fibers; the latency period ranges from 15 to 40 years.

To protect society from future or ongoing exposures, and the associated risks, major efforts to control, contain, or remove old and deteriorating ACMs have been performed. By using proper techniques and work procedures, the risk to asbestos-removal workers and building occupants will be low. These efforts now will change the future of asbestos disease in our society by greatly reducing the frequency and severity of asbestos exposure.

CURRENT REGULATIONS

Several Federal agencies are charged with regulating asbestos products and wastes.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets limits for worker exposure on the job. OSHA has set respiratory protection guidelines, training, and medical surveillance, record keeping, and hazard communication requirements for workers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the management and disposal of asbestos-containing wastes. Additionally, the EPA has mandated certain air monitoring and training requirements, as well as record keeping and hazard communication standards. The EPA has also set deadlines for elimination of asbestos in certain products such as water distribution pipes and building products.

Through the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), the EPA requires use of pre-work notices and specific work practices during demolition and renovation operations involving ACMs. Additionally, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), signed into law on 22 Oct 86, requires EPA to study the extent of danger to human health posed by asbestos in public and commercial buildings. Buildings most likely to contain friable asbestos are those built or remodeled between 1945 and 1978.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regulates asbestos in consumer products and has banned the use of asbestos in dry-wall patching compounds, ceramic logs, and clothing.

The state of Kentucky and Tennessee have also promulgated regulations dealing specifically with the work practices involved with abatement operations. Kentucky, in particular, has been proactive in this area.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT

To deal with asbestos at the unit level, develop a good program for facility management. This means that:

- a. Good housekeeping is practiced, and

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b. Maintenance, repair, renovation, removal, and self-help work requests are submitted and monitored for completion.

Be aware that asbestos containing materials are commonly found in the following:

- a. Floor tile
- b. Pipe Insulation
- c. Wall Board/Transite
- d. Other Building Materials

Locate any ACMs in your building(s). (If needed, PWBC Service Division (SD) will have Asbestos Assessments accomplished.) Then use special care to ensure that any day-to-day activities do not disturb the material. Fort Campbell has now surveyed most buildings for the presence of ACM. Asbestos warning stickers are a result of those asbestos surveys. Removing, demolished, or otherwise disturbed these materials necessitate handling in accordance with the asbestos regulations. Direct any question on survey status to PWBC/SD, 798 - 0591/0124.

PWBC/SD should also be called prior to any self-help projects. Upon submitting any self-help work request, SD will evaluate it for asbestos and schedule an assessment if needed.

The attached "Guidance and Instruction" sheets give additional information and detailed procedures for handling asbestos materials.

SUSPECT ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL

The following is a brief description of typical suspect ACM (not intended to be a complete list by any means, but what is common on Fort Campbell):

- a. Floor tile: Is considered to be vinyl floor covering consisting of 9" X 9" or 12" X 12" squares. All 9" X 9" tile is considered to be ACM unless sampling analysis proves otherwise. Any 12" X 12" tile which has not been tested as non-asbestos should also be considered ACM. Floor tiles are attached to the flooring surface by mastic that may also contain asbestos.
- b. Thermal insulation: This includes pipe insulation, boiler jacketing and blown-in insulation.
- c. Wall board: Wall board can have mud applied joints that contain asbestos. Also, transite boards are always considered asbestos. Transite boards are commonly found in boiler rooms, stair wells, or anywhere fire or heat protection is needed.

When any of these materials are in good condition, no asbestos hazard exists. However, in accordance with State and EPA regulations, the suspect material may only be removed by certified personnel.

To avoid fines and penalties and to protect human health and the environment, the following steps must be taken:

- a. Determine if the suspect material to be removed or disturbed is asbestos containing. If there is any doubt, an assessment should be made. The only accurate way to determine if a material is ACM is through an assessment by an accredited asbestos inspector. See the attached "Guidance and Instructions" for detailed information on how to accomplish this.
- b. If the assessment results indicate the material is ACM, do not disturb the material. In this case, process a work order through PWBC SD for removal. PWBC will schedule removal by certified asbestos workers.