

Annual Asbestos Notification

Asbestos has been an issue of concern for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) was designed to determine the extent of asbestos concerns in the school and to act as a guide in formulating asbestos management policies for the schools. Asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa and the USSR. The properties of asbestos make it an ideal material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There has been over 3,000 different products manufactured using asbestos. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began action to limit its use in 1973. Most of the asbestos products used as building materials were banned in 1978.

A certified asbestos inspector as required by AHERA has inspected the school district facilities. The inspector located, sampled and determined the condition and hazard potential of all material in the school facilities suspected of containing asbestos.

FINDINGS: Beyond the asbestos assumed to be located in concrete, roofing felts, pipe elbows, carpet glues, etc., which is of minimal public health concern, low risk asbestos was found in some types of materials in the district buildings.

The inspection and laboratory analysis records form the basis of the asbestos management plan for the school district which includes: notification letters, training for employees, a set of procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials, and plans for regular surveillance of the materials. A copy of the management plan is available for inspection in the administrative offices of each building. Andrew Kahler is the school district's asbestos program manager and may be reached at 319-656-2243. All inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to Andrew.