PennState Physical Plant

Program Highlights

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

Penn State's Asbestos Management ensures the safety and health of the University community and compliance with existing state and federal regulations. Office of Physical Plant's (OPP) in-house asbestos workers main purpose is to provide an immediate response mechanism for removal or decontamination of small areas of asbestos-containing or contaminated materials with properly trained individuals. This ensures the safety and health of the University community and compliance with existing state and federal regulations. Large-scale projects are typically conducted by approved asbestos contractors.

TRAINING

- Asbestos Awareness Training is required annually for those who may come in contact with asbestos during their normal work (e.g. maintenance, janitorial, housekeeping, designers, project managers, etc.).
- Asbestos Worker and Supervisor training is required annually for those in OPP (University Park only) whose jobs require proper asbestos handling.
- Asbestos Inspector training is required annually for those who collect building material samples.

INSPECTIONS

- Unit or project dependent (e.g. mechanical rooms, prior to renovations).
- Everyone should be observant and report damage in their buildings.
- Asbestos Supervisors are required to perform 2 random asbestos job inspections per month.

KEY ELEMENTS

- Asbestos-containing building materials are found in most of our buildings. Examples include: flooring, thermal insulations, plasters, ceiling systems, etc.
- All damaged building materials must be reported for repairs through your unit, regardless of whether they are asbestos or not.
- No one may handle asbestos unless they are licensed by PA Labor and Industry or have certain written minor task-specific approvals from EHS, such as OPP.
- Safety Officers, Facility Coordinators, Managers and Supervisors must:
  - Identify maintenance, janitorial and housekeeping employees who require training and ensure they receive.
  - Ensure non-maintenance employees and students do not damage asbestos by hanging pictures or plants, running wires, etc.
  - Ensure that reports of damage are addressed in a timely manner.
  - Ensure that EHS is involved with all renovations that affect possible asbestos, especially if not working with OPP or campus maintenance departments.
  - Report contractor problems to OPP or EHS.
  - Employees should not handle or disturb known or suspect asbestos unless your job description and training allow.

REFERENCE

Asbestos Management Program

Committed to Safety Excellence