

## Safety Manual > Asbestos

### D. Asbestos

#### 1. General

Asbestos is a mineral rock mined from the earth in much the same ways as other minerals such as iron, lead, and copper. However, instead of crushing up into dust particles, asbestos divides into millions of fibers. These fibers come in three common varieties: chrysotile, amosite, and crocidolite. All three varieties exhibit substantial resistance to heat and chemicals and thus have been used for many commercial and industrial purposes. In fact, asbestos has been used in more than 3,000 products. It has been apparent for some time that asbestos fibers can cause lung disease. Accordingly, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and subsequently the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have developed strict regulations regarding the use, removal, and disposal of asbestos and asbestos containing material.

Removal and disposal of asbestos and/or asbestos containing material is a very exacting process and must be done only by individuals who have been specially trained and certified to perform such tasks. Anticipated work that might involve asbestos or asbestos containing material shall be coordinated through Facility Services and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). The above is true if it is only suspected that asbestos could be involved. Removal of materials such as floor tiles, acoustical ceiling tiles, ceiling and wall plaster, insulated pipes, or removal of insulation from pipes or any sprayed or trowled on material within a building is not acceptable unless done by Facility Services's trained and certified workers.

If a building occupant suspects asbestos problems, i.e. dust or fallen material on floors, exposed pipe insulation, etc., he or she shall report it to Facility Services or EHS. The presence of asbestos containing materials does not mean the health of building occupants is endangered. If asbestos containing materials remain in good condition and are unlikely to be disturbed, exposure will be negligible. However, when fibers are released, they can create a potential hazard for building occupants.

#### 2. Responsibilities

LSU University Safety Manual  
Section V, Part D – Asbestos

- iii. Ensure that asbestos workers, inspectors, and planners are trained and certified.
- c. Building Coordinators
  - Ensure that potential asbestos problems are reported to EHS in a timely fashion.
- d. Building Occupants and Employees, Staff, and Faculty
  - i. Foster an awareness of potential asbestos hazards and report potential problems to supervisor, building coordinators, or EHS.
  - ii. Do not undertake job or activity which may involve asbestos materials without checking with EHS.