

Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor  
Rod A. Roberts, Labor Commissioner



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**Division of Labor**

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Dubuque, IA 52003

Dear Employer,

Worker exposure to asbestos hazards is addressed in specific OSHA standards for the construction industry. These standards reduce the risk to workers by requiring that employers provide personal exposure monitoring to assess the risk and hazard awareness training for operations where there is any potential exposure to asbestos. Airborne levels of asbestos are never to exceed legal worker exposure limits. There is no "safe" level of asbestos exposure for any type of asbestos fiber. Asbestos exposures as short in duration as a few days have caused mesothelioma in humans. Every occupational exposure to asbestos can cause injury of disease; every occupational exposure to asbestos contributes to the risk of getting an asbestos related disease.

All commercial and residential buildings (including single family homes regardless of the year of construction) that will need any renovation as part of a storm, fire or water damage; will need to be tested for Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) to identify the potential hazards to workers doing that material removal. (wood, glass, metal or fiberglass are not considered suspect materials)

**1926.1101(k)(2)(i)** Before work subject to this standard is begun, building and facility owners shall determine the presence, location, and quantity of ACM and/or PACM at the work site pursuant to paragraph (k)(1)(i) of this section.

**1926.1101(k)(3)(ii)** Before work under this standard is performed employers of employees who will perform such work shall inform the following persons of the location and quantity of ACM and/or PACM present in the area and the precautions to be taken to ensure that airborne asbestos is confined to the area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office (515-725-5636).

Chad Smith  
Sr. Industrial Hygienist  
Division of Labor  
Iowa OSHA Enforcement

