## Asbestos Awareness

1. **Purpose**

To reduce prolonged exposure to asbestos fibers that has been proven to cause debilitating respiratory diseases such as asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma and cancer of the stomach and colon.

1. **Exposure**

Asbestos can be found in materials used in the manufacture of heat-resistant clothing, automotive brake and clutch linings, and a variety of building materials including insulation, soundproofing, floor tiles, roofing felts, ceiling tiles, asbestos-cement pipe and sheet, and fire-resistant drywall.

Asbestos is also present in pipe and boiler insulation materials, pipeline wrap and in sprayed-on materials located on beams, in crawlspaces, and between walls.

1. **Signs and Labels**

Areas that contain Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) and/or Presumed Asbestos Containing Material (PACM) shall be appropriately marked with signs and labels. Signs shall be posted at the entrance of mechanical rooms/boiler rooms/etc. which contain the ACM/PACM. The sign must identify the material present, its location, and the appropriate work practices to ensure that ACM is not disturbed. These signs must be comprehensible to those employees who may encounter them (such as, in foreign language, pictographs, graphics, or awareness training etc.). Some examples are:

**DANGER**

**PIPE INSULATION WITHIN THIS ROOM CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS**

**AVOID BREATHING DUST**

**CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD**

**SEE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR FOR APPROPRIATE WORK PRACTICES**

1. **Multi-Contractor Worksites**

Facilities with ACM have particular responsibilities for notifying the following of it’s presence of at the work site:

* Prospective contractors applying or bidding for work if their employees could be working in or adjacent to areas containing the ACM.
* Employees who could be working in or adjacent to areas containing the ACM.
* All other employers with employees who could be working in or adjacent to areas containing the ACM.

Any employer performing work which requires the establishment of a regulated area must inform all other employers on the worksite of the nature of the work, the requirements pertaining to the regulated area, and the measures employed to assure other employees are not exposed to asbestos.

If employees working immediately adjacent to a Class I asbestos job are exposed to asbestos due to the inadequate containment of such a job, their employer shall either remove the employees from the area until the enclosure breach is repaired or perform an initial exposure assessment.

The employer of employees working adjacent to a regulated area shall:

* Take steps daily to ascertain the integrity of the enclosure or other control methods that are being used by the asbestos employer to assure that asbestos fibers do not migrate into the work area.
* Comply with applicable protective requirements to protect their employees.

1. **Training**

Asbestos Awareness training is provided and documented for any employee(s) whose work activities may expose them to asbestos containing material (ACM) or presumed asbestos containing material (PACM) but do not disturb the ACM or PACM during their work activities.