



# ASBESTOS

## *A Fact Sheet for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon*

### **Q. What is asbestos?**

A. Asbestos is naturally occurring mineral comprised of fibers that are heat resistant and has many practical applications, but is also an extremely hazardous carcinogen.

### **Q. Why should I be concerned with asbestos?**

A. When released in the air microscopic asbestos fibers are invisible and can remain air born indefinitely. Air born fibers which are inhaled can become trapped in the lungs and cause cancer.

### **Q. What materials typically contain asbestos?**

A. Various interior and exterior, insulation and surfacing materials, manufactured and used from the 1940's through the 1970's. Churches and School in the Archdiocese typically have asbestos in boiler and pipe insulation, floor tile and mastic, roof shingles, just to name a few.

### **Q. How is asbestos regulated?**

A. All schools are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Other non-school, public buildings are regulated under Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Act (OR OSHA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), or the Lane County Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA).

### **Q. How do I know whether asbestos is present?**

A. Schools have an *AHERA Management Plan* (EPA), other building have a *OR OSHA Asbestos Survey* (DEQ), which identifies suspect material and indicates if analysis had been done. Unknown suspect materials require analysis to determine if it contains asbestos. Under AHERA, schools are exempt when an "asbestos free designation letter" is provided by the architect.

### **Q. What is required to remove asbestos containing material?**

Construction, or demolition, projects which will impact suspect material are required to have documented evidence of a negative analysis for normal removal. Suspect materials which test positive can only be removed by an Oregon licensed abatement contractors. Asbestos analysis and abatement air monitoring should only be done by a qualified, third party environmental company, or laboratory.

### **Q. What should be done if asbestos is found in a building?**

A. Whenever possible it is best to manage undamaged asbestos containing materials on site.

### **Q. What type of assistance does the Archdiocese provide?**

A. The Archdiocese Risk Management office assists schools with AHERA compliance and is available for assistance with any asbestos related issue.

### **Q. Whom should I contact if I have questions about asbestos?**

A. **Contact:**

**David Hodgin, Risk Management / Environmental Coordinator**  
Archdiocese of Portland  
2838 E. Burnside Street / Portland, Oregon 97214  
Phone: 503-233-8313  
FAX: 503-234-2903  
Email: [dhodgin@archdpdx.org](mailto:dhodgin@archdpdx.org)