



Asbestos is a generic term used to describe a family of naturally occurring fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, flexibility, and resistance to thermal, chemical, and electrical conditions. Asbestos has been incorporated in a wide number of products, many of which are used in the construction industry. Over the past decades the hazards of asbestos exposure have become well known. Many asbestos containing products have been removed from the market or, as in the case of building materials, banned. Consequently, most worker exposures occur during the removal of asbestos and the renovation and maintenance of buildings and structures containing asbestos.

The purpose of this program is to establish firm guidelines for the operations and maintenance (including abatement) of asbestos containing material (ACM) at Ursinus College, to protect personnel from potential health hazards of asbestos related diseases, and to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all members of the college community.

To prevent the release of potentially harmful asbestos fibers into the air and to comply with occupational and environmental regulations, ACM must be identified and managed. The Ursinus College plan for asbestos management includes:

- Identification and continuing surveillance of all friable (easily crumbled or disturbed by hand pressure) ACM within the Ursinus buildings.
- Use of appropriate signage to indicate the presence of ACM.
- Identification of all non-friable ACM prior to renovation or demolition activities.
- Mechanism for initiating repair of damaged ACM as part of routine building maintenance.
- Insurance of proper removal and disposal, or encapsulation of ACM prior to renovation/demolition activities.
- Abatement project design, daily inspections, and air monitoring by trained professionals.

The College's current policy is that of in-place management. That is, ACM is only disturbed or removed when necessary. Thus, only during building renovation, demolition or when the material is found to be damaged, will a licensed outside contractor remove ACM.

The OSHA asbestos program regulates the exposure of workers to asbestos in the general industry and in all construction work, including but not limited to the following:

- Demolition or salvage of structures where asbestos is present,
- Removal or encapsulation of ACM,
- Construction, alteration, repair, maintenance, or renovation of asbestos -containing structures or substrates,
- Installation of asbestos containing products,
- Asbestos spill/emergency cleanup, and
- Transportation, disposal, storage, containment of and housekeeping activities involving asbestos or products containing asbestos on the construction site.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Hazard Avoidance:

All members of the community should



- Never intentionally damage materials that are known or suspected to be ACM. Do not drill, abrade, or break ACM of any kind. Heed warning signs posted on ACM in and around your workplace.
- Report accidental ACM damage promptly to the Office of EHS & Risk Management or Facilities Supervisor.
- Not attempt to clean up damaged ACM. A conventional vacuum cleaner will spew respirable fibers through its filter into the air. Dislodged fragments may be misted gently with water and/or covered with polyethylene while awaiting proper cleanup.
- Not dispose of any suspected ACM in the ordinary trash; it must be handled as a special waste much like hazardous waste.
- ***Avoid smoking if a significant exposure to asbestos is suspected.***
- Avoid transporting new or used ACM to the campus.

Training - Hazard Communication:

All maintenance and custodial staff who may be exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos at or above the PEL and/or excursion limit shall be trained annually. The training course must be easily understandable for employees and must inform them of:

- Ways to recognize asbestos.
- The adverse health effects of asbestos exposure.
- Operations that could result in asbestos exposure and the importance of protective controls to minimize exposure.
- The specific areas in Ursinus Buildings where asbestos exists.
- The appropriate work practices for maintaining and cleaning areas where ACM exists.

General Asbestos Location Information (as of November 2021)

Asbestos Free Buildings

Fieldhouse – 2001
Richter/North – 2002
Kaleidoscope – 2005
New Hall – 2007
Bomberger – totally gutted in 2007
942 and 944 Main – totally gutted in 2008
IDC – 2018
The Schellhase Commons - 2019

Buildings Containing Asbestos

Myrin – see handout (1/2 of the building still contains asbestos – Main and 2nd floors)
Heat Plant – except for garage
Pfahler Hall – fountain room 004 – tunnel and caulk in windows
Thomas Hall – basement mechanical room

Assume all other buildings contain ACM