

OPS-SH-0001

Asbestos Awareness Policy

Revision History				
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1	1/28/2026	R. Strahan	RG, SG	Update to separate by topic
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Table of Contents

1 Purpose.....	3
2 Scope.....	3
3 Definitions.....	3
3.1 Asbestos	3
3.2 Friable	3
3.3 Non-Friable	3
3.4 Mesothelioma	3
3.5 ACM	3
3.6 PACM	3
3.7 Health Hazard	3
4 Responsibility.....	4
4.1 HSE Managers.....	4
4.2 Employees.....	4
5 Awareness Level Requirements and Information	4
5.1 Asbestos Exposure Control	4
5.2 Background of Asbestos	4
5.3 Health Hazards of Asbestos	5
5.4 Types of Asbestos.....	5
5.5 Identifying Asbestos	5
5.6 Multiple Worksites	5
5.7 Required Warning Signs	6
5.8 Medical Surveillance Program	6
6 Training.....	6
6.1 Training elements are to include:	6
6.2 Subcontractors performing work shall comply with the requirements of this standard and all applicable regulation and environmental regulatory requirements.	6
7 References.....	6
7.1 NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards - Asbestos	6
7.2 CFR 1910.1001.....	6
7.3 CFR 1926.1101.....	6
7.4 OSHA Letter of Interpretation - Updates for asbestos warning signs and ANSI warning signs	6

1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to advise all Ampirical Solutions employees in areas where asbestos is suspected on an awareness level basis about the properties and dangers of asbestos, general guidelines and training requirements, and to provide basic precautions and protections for employees to avoid exposure to asbestos containing material (ACM) or presumed asbestos containing material (PACM).

2 Scope

This procedure applies to all Ampirical Solutions employees whose work activities may be in the vicinity of asbestos containing materials during their work activities. When work is performed on an unowned or operated site, the operator's program shall take precedence. However, this document covers Ampirical Solutions employees and contractors and should be used on owned premises, or when an operator's program doesn't exist or is less stringent.

3 Definitions

3.1 Asbestos

- Not necessarily a specific material, but rather a collection of varied fibrous minerals. Known for its excellent insulation characteristics, undisrupted, the material is not hazardous. Once the fibers become disturbed, they spread through the air, bringing severe health hazards in the form of microscopic fibers.

3.2 Friable

- Appears crumbly and can easily be crushed under light pressure. This fragile and lightweight material is used as insulation and spray on paints or coatings. This type of asbestos is hazardous to handle.

3.3 Non-Friable

- Appears rigid and is much more difficult to damage. It is found in vinyl floor tiles and roof sheeting or shingles. Its common name is "asbestos cement," and it is not known to be as hazardous as friable asbestos. Cutting, drilling or grinding this material can cause asbestos fibers to become airborne.

3.4 Mesothelioma

- Cancer of the lungs, specifically in the thin lining of the organ known as mesothelium (or mesothelial tissues). The "-oma" suffix in mesothelioma refers to the presence of tumors. Asbestos exposure can happen decades prior before feeling symptoms or receiving a diagnosis (persistent cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, sharp chest pains, lumps in chest or abdomen, etc.).

3.5 ACM

- Asbestos-Containing Material

3.6 PACM

- Presumed Asbestos-Containing Material

3.7 Health Hazard

- Any materials, chemicals or substances that have the potential to cause adverse effects on an individual's health.

4 Responsibility

4.1 HSE Managers

- Ensure owners, operators and subcontractors are notified of PACM.
- Prohibit all Ampirical Solutions employees and subcontractors from working until material in question is confirmed as non-asbestos or abated.
- Ensure proper employee asbestos awareness training is completed to those applicable.
- Report to the Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE), department upon discovery of any ACM.

4.2 Employees

- Are required to act in strict compliance with the requirements of this program and delay or discontinue work if there is ever an unresolved concern regarding exposure to asbestos.
- Immediately report any suspected asbestos containing material to their supervisor

5 Awareness Level Requirements and Information

5.1 Asbestos Exposure Control

- All applicable employees of Ampirical Solutions are required to be trained on an Asbestos Exposure Controls Plan. If ACM is suspected or discovered, all work must be ceased, and upper management be notified immediately.

5.2 Background of Asbestos

- Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that is found throughout the world. Asbestos has several characteristics that make it desirable for many commercial uses. The fibers are extremely strong, flexible, and very resistant to heat, chemicals and corrosion. Asbestos is also an excellent insulator, and the fibers can be spun, woven, bonded into other materials, or pressed to form paper products. For these reasons and because it is relatively inexpensive, asbestos has been widely used for many years and now is found in over three thousand different commercial products.
- Exposure to asbestos fibers can cause serious health risks. The major risks from asbestos come from inhaling the fibers. Asbestos is composed of long silky fibers that contain hundreds of thousands of smaller fibers. These fibers can be subdivided further into microscopic filaments that will float in the air for several hours. Asbestos fibers can easily penetrate body tissues and cause disabling and fatal diseases after prolonged exposure.
- Although asbestos exposure can be hazardous, the health risks associated with it can be minimized. In most cases the fibers are released only if the asbestos containing materials (ACM) is disturbed. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials do not pose health risks. When ACM is properly managed, the release of fibers into the air is prevented or minimized, and the risk of asbestos-related disease can be reduced to a negligible level. However, asbestos materials can become hazardous when they release fibers into the air due to damage, disturbance, or deterioration over time.

- The ability to recognize the kinds of material that contain asbestos, knowing under what conditions they are dangerous, and understanding basic safety precautions, are all important in keeping exposures to a minimum.

5.3 Health Hazards of Asbestos

- If asbestos is inhaled, asbestos has been shown to cause lung cancer, asbestosis, mesothelioma, and cancer of the stomach and colon.
- Locations and/or Materials Where Employees May Be Exposed to Asbestos
- Asbestos materials are 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.
- Client-owned and/or operated equipment and facilities, where the surfacing material or insulation is present, must be confirmed non-asbestos before Ampirical Solutions employees disturb that material. Before Ampirical Solutions staff begin work, the customer or owner must test and, if required, remove any surface material or insulation that is unverified to be non-asbestos.

5.4 Types of Asbestos

- Most of the time, asbestos can be described as friable. When disturbed, the fluffy or fibrous sprayed-on materials used for insulation, soundproofing, and fireproofing easily release fiber into the air, causing anyone who came into contact with it to experience severe health issues.
- Materials such as vinyl-asbestos floor tile or roofing felts are considered non-friable and generally do not emit airborne fibers unless subjected to sanding or sawing operations. Asbestos cement pipe or sheet can emit airborne fibers if the materials are cut, abraded or sawed, or if they are broken during demolition operations.

5.5 Identifying Asbestos

- Although asbestos can occasionally be found in a product by looking at the label or speaking with the maker, asbestos content is not always visible. Lab analysis is the only reliable method of identifying asbestos. Always presume that the material is asbestos-containing and ensure that it is verified when asbestos is suspected. Until the appropriate steps are taken to remove asbestos from the worksite, work will cease.
- Employees will not disturb the asbestos-containing material. Signs and labels shall identify the material which is present, where it is located, and appropriate work practices which will ensure that asbestos-containing material (ACM) and/or presumed asbestos-containing material (PACM) will not be disturbed.

5.6 Multiple Worksites

- When working on multi-contractor sites, our staff need to be protected from potential exposure. If workers in nearby jobs are exposed to asbestos due to insufficient containment of those jobs, Ampirical Solutions will either conduct an initial exposure assessment or evacuate workers from the area until the enclosure breach is resolved.

5.7 Required Warning Signs

- Ampirical Solutions employees should stop work and ensure that they contact Ampirical Safety if PACM/ACM are suspected. It is the duty of the property owner to determine if PACM/ACM is present and ensure that proper warning placards are in place of the affected areas.

5.8 Medical Surveillance Program

- All Ampirical Solutions employees who are exposed to asbestos at the regulated level shall be included in the Ampirical Solutions medical surveillance program.

6 Training

Employees who work in areas where asbestos exposure is possible must receive prior asbestos awareness training. This shall be completed prior to showing up on a job site. Employees who may encounter asbestos while working who do not engage in asbestos abatement or removal activities must complete asbestos awareness training.

6.1 Training elements are to include:

- The health effects that are associated with asbestos exposure.
- The relationship between smoking and exposure to asbestos producing lung cancer.
- The signs of presumed or known asbestos-containing materials (PACM/ACM)
 - Stop work immediately and notify supervision if suspected.
- The purpose and a description of the medical surveillance program.
- The content of the OSHA asbestos standard, including appendices.
- The requirements for posting signs and affixing labels and the meaning of the required legends for such signs and labels.

6.2 Subcontractors performing work shall comply with the requirements of this standard and all applicable regulation and environmental regulatory requirements.

7 References

7.1 [NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards - Asbestos](#)

7.2 [CFR 1910.1001](#)

7.3 [CFR 1926.1101](#)

7.4 [OSHA Letter of Interpretation - Updates for asbestos warning signs and ANSI warning signs](#)