

How can I obtain more information?

Notification forms and guidance documents for asbestos, including requirements for all renovation and demolition activities, can be found on the agency Web site at: www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/asbestos or by calling The Asbestos NESHAP Program at (602) 771-2333 or (602) 771-4553 or (800) 234-5677 Ext. 771-2333 or 771-4553.



Main Office

1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-2300 AZ Toll Free: (800) 234-5677
(602) 771-4829 (Hearing impaired)

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(520) 628-6733 Toll free: (888) 271-9302
E-mail: sro@azdeq.gov

Community Liaisons

Northwestern Arizona - (928) 679-7307
E-mail: nwaz@azdeq.gov
Northeastern Arizona - (928) 337-3565
E-mail: neaz@azdeq.gov
Southwestern Arizona - (520) 770-3309
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DISCLAIMER

The information presented here is merely a guideline and does not cover all of the asbestos NESHAP requirements. For further details, contact ADEQ's Asbestos NESHAP Program Coordinator at (602) 771-2333.

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WHAT SMALL COMMUNITIES AND FIREFIGHTERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS



Small Communities and fire districts should be well informed of the asbestos regulations, which are applicable for building renovations and demolitions. Burning of buildings, including residential homes for fire training exercises, is considered "demolition," and fire departments must adhere to federal, state and county asbestos standards prior to such a burn.

The purpose of this document is to outline the environmental requirements for fire training exercises. Facilities demolished by intentional burning are subject to the Asbestos Regulations, National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) found in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 61, Subpart M. These are adopted in Title 18 Chapter 2 Section 1101 (A)(8) of the Arizona Administrative Code (AAC). To protect public health, all asbestos containing materials must be removed from a facility that is planned to be intentionally burned.

Public Health Impact

Burning of asbestos containing materials threatens the health of firefighters and the general public. When materials containing asbestos fibers are burned, the matrix of these materials breaks down, releasing asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos is a known human carcinogen. Asbestos fibers can remain in the air almost indefinitely, traveling great distances from the point of release.

Fire Department Responsibilities

Prior to purposely burning a facility that has been donated or provided for use, a fire department must:

1. Conduct a thorough inspection to identify any asbestos containing materials in the facility
2. After taking control of the structure, remove all asbestos containing materials identified prior to burning
3. Submit an ADEQ Demolition Notification to the ADEQ Air Quality Division

NOTE: A single residential building having four or fewer dwelling units is ordinarily not subject to the Asbestos NESHAP requirements for any renovation and/or demolition activity. Homeowners can remove asbestos containing materials prior to providing the structure for a fire training exercise. However, ADEQ encourages homeowners to use proper procedures and certified personnel for inspections, asbestos removal, transportation and disposal of asbestos containing waste materials.

Detailed Guidelines

- 1. Taking Control:** A fire department becomes an operator under the Asbestos NESHAP when it takes possession of a building for burning purposes, and becomes subject to the asbestos requirements. For example, an agreement with a property owner and a city or county authority for abandoned properties would qualify as transfer of authority to the fire department.
- 2. Inspections:** A “thorough inspection” meeting the Asbestos NESHAP requirements must be completed prior to any burn. This means that all suspect asbestos containing

material must be identified, sampled and analyzed by an approved laboratory or materials must be assumed to contain asbestos. ADEQ recommends that an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) trained and certified building inspector conduct these inspections. A list of consulting firms having individuals with this certification, and approved laboratories for testing suspect asbestos containing materials can be found on the agency Web site at: www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/asbestos/index.html. Click on “Asbestos Contact Directory”.

An AHERA certified inspector may also be able to help a fire department identify other potentially hazardous materials which should be removed prior to burning, such as fluorescent ballasts and thermostats.

3. Notification Requirements:

Renovation

All asbestos containing materials identified in a building or structure for fire training must be removed prior to demolition, or in this case, intentional burning.

An ADEQ Renovation Notification form is required to be submitted to the agency 10 working days prior to threshold amounts of regulated asbestos containing materials being removed.

Demolition

The asbestos regulations consider burning a structure a demolition activity. Fire Departments planning to complete a fire training exercise on a structure must submit an ADEQ Demolition Notification Form to the agency 10 working days prior to the training exercise even if no asbestos is identified or removed from the structure.

There are no fees associated with the notification process.



Compliance with Open Burning Regulations

Once asbestos containing materials are removed, a facility may be burned as an official fire training exercise. An open burning permit is not required. Most other types of open burns are subject to Arizona’s open burning regulations (A.A.C.R 18-2-602) which include a list of materials not permissible to burn and the open burn permitting process. See ADEQ Web site: www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/permits/class.html#open.

Disposal of Remaining Debris

After burning of a facility has taken place the remaining debris, consisting of cold ash and unburned material must be disposed of at an approved landfill. For more information, contact the ADEQ Solid Waste Program at (602) 771-4673 or (800) 234-5677 Ext.771-4673.