



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH and SAFETY**

### **Standard Operating Procedure #2.0**

**The Control of Asbestos Fibres During Emergency Work** – *Cleanup of debris/dust on surfaces after the disturbance of a small area ACM surfacing.*

**Application:** Asbestos-containing material may be disturbed accidentally through uncontrolled contact, or by water leaks, degradation, etc. This work procedure is intended for situations when cleanup of this material is needed on an emergency basis, and is limited to the cleanup of a small of a small quantity of relatively intact debris which has fallen from an architectural finish, ceiling tile, or thermal insulation on pipes, boilers, or other equipment.

### **Materials and Equipment:**

#### **Personal Protective Equipment:**

Half face respirator with P100 filters  
Safety glasses  
Safety boots  
Disposable coveralls  
Gloves

#### **Tools and Equipment:**

Ladder or scaffold  
Wet wipes or bucket with water  
Water sprayer  
Polyethylene sheet  
Asbestos disposal bags  
Asbestos barrier tape and warning signs

### **Safe Work Practices:**

#### **Procedure:**

The following work practices apply in most situations:

1. Isolate the area and restrict access by vacating the area and locking doors etc., to prevent others from entering the immediate vicinity of the work area. **DO NOT** block access to emergency exits. Barricade the area using barrier tape.
2. Verify whether there are any exhaust vents in proximity to the proposed work area. Speak with your supervisor to determine whether or not these vents may

need to be blocked or if the ventilation system in the work area/zone can be effectively isolated.

3. Don PPE.
4. Cleanup asbestos-containing debris as follows:
  - a) Start HEPA vacuum before entering the area
  - b) Use the HEPA vacuum to clean a path at least 6 feet wide from the entry point of the work area to the site of the fallen material
  - c) Remove all small debris with the HEPA vacuum
  - d) Remove any dust or loose debris from the surface of large pieces of ACM with the HEPA vacuum
  - e) Mist the surface of larger pieces of debris with amended water
  - f) Pick up the larger pieces (eg. Using inverted plastic bag) and place in the bottom of an asbestos disposal bag. Place the pieces in the bag without dropping and avoid unnecessary disturbance and release of material.
  - g) Thoroughly wet the material in the bag with amended water as it is collected
  - h) Remove all remaining visible debris with the HEPA vacuum.
  - i) HEPA vacuum an area 3 feet beyond the location where any visible debris was found.
  - j) Place a drop cloth over the HEPA vacuumed area, and beneath the area from where the debris fell.
  - k) HEPA vacuum the site from which material fell to remove all loose material that can be removed with the suction from the vacuum.
  - l) Use wet wipes to wipe any hard surface or objects in the area that may have been contaminated.
5. Determine whether or not the damaged material can be repaired using other procedures, in which staff are trained, or if an abatement contractor needs to be involved.
6. Clean all tools and equipment using wet wiping and/or the HEPA vacuum, and HEPA vacuum the outside of any asbestos waste bags.
7. Dispose of all asbestos waste. Wet wipes, cloths, coveralls etc. should all be treated as asbestos waste.
8. Restore area to normal accessibility.
9. Report any ACM noted to be in poor condition to the Asbestos Management Coordinator as soon as possible.