

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE AMSTERDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Asbestos is a naturally-occurring mineral which has, until about 1980, been commonly used in building materials. Asbestos will not burn, is an excellent insulator, has great strength, is resistant to chemicals, and absorbs sound. Examples of asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) are vinyl floor tile, sprayed-on acoustical ceiling material, and pipe insulation. As ACBM deteriorate over time, or are disturbed by maintenance, renovation, or demolition activities, asbestos fibers may be released into the air. Inhalation of these airborne, microscopic fibers has been proven to cause such deadly diseases as lung cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lungs), and asbestosis (scarring of lung tissues). Uncontrolled asbestos contamination in buildings has been, and remains, a significant environmental and public health issue. In 1986 Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) to require public and private, secondary and elementary schools to identify ACBM in their school buildings and take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. In 1987, the US Environmental Protection Agency finalized a regulatory program which enforces the AHERA mandate. These regulations are incorporated within the AHERA Rule (10 C.F.R Part 763, Subpart E)

In compliance with AHERA Rule, the Amsterdam School District 75 had its school building inspected by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the State of Montana. During that inspection, areas of suspect ACBM were identified. The type, condition, and location of this ACBM was noted. Samples were taken of some or all of the suspect ACBM. Laboratory analysis of these samples confirmed the presence or absence of ACBM. Suspect ACBM not sampled and analyzed were assumed to contain asbestos. Confirmed and/or assumed ACBM currently remain in certain locations in our school building(s). These materials, and their locations are the splash area of the boiler room, behind the hall water fountain, possibly between the ceiling and unused furnace in original building basement.

Upon confirmation of the presence of ACBM in the school building, an Asbestos Management Plan was developed for the Amsterdam School by an asbestos management planner, accredited by the State of Montana. The Asbestos Management Plan includes a description of the measures currently being taken to ensure that ACBM remaining in our school building(s) is maintained in condition what will not pose a threat to the health of our students and employees. The Plan describes past response action taken to abate ACBM, as well as response actions planned for the future. Information is provided on the periodical monitoring of the condition of ACBM remaining in our school building through triennial reinspections, conducted by accredited asbestos inspectors, and through semiannual surveillance, conducted by trained school maintenance staff. Finally, the asbestos awareness training program for maintenance and custodial personnel is documented.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for your review in the Amsterdam School District 75 administrative office during regular office hours. Mr. Galvin is the designated Asbestos Program Coordinator for the School District. Please direct all inquiries regarding the Asbestos Management Plan to him at 406-282-7216