

JOINT SOP

Title	Managing potential asbestos exposure
Purpose	The purpose of this procedure is to assist responding agencies and Incident Controllers in the identification, risk management and communications of potential Asbestos Containing Materials for multi-agency incidents.
Scope	<p>This procedure applies to all personnel engaged in response to multi agency emergencies.</p> <p>This Joint Standard Operating Procedure (JSOP) provides information about managing situations (except asbestos removal) where a risk to the health of emergency responders, contractors and the public could arise from potential exposure to asbestos. This procedure will also provide guidance on meeting duties under the OHS Act and 'Division 8 – Activities involving asbestos' in 'Part 4.4 – Asbestos' of the OHS Regulations in relation to managing asbestos.</p> <p>This JSOP does not include policies and procedures that agencies may put in place regarding minimum Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment (PPC&E) standards, testing processes, and methods of storage, transport, decontamination, and disposal of contaminated PPC&E</p>
Applicable Agencies	<p>This procedure applies to the following agency personnel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA • DELWP (FFMVic) • FRV • VICSES • And volunteers, contractors, or other responders for which the Control Agency is responsible.
Content	<p>The procedural contents of this JSOP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Identification • Step 2: Notification • Step 3: Site Management • Step 4: Decontamination • Step 5: Hand over / Communication • Step 6: Exposure • Step 7: Recording Incident

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<p>Responsibilities</p>	<p>Emergency personnel involved in emergency operations</p> <p>Must identify whether an emergency-related activity being carried out will expose personnel and others to an asbestos risk. If there is uncertainty as to whether asbestos will be disturbed by an emergency activity, the emergency service personnel must assume that asbestos is present (and treat the activity as asbestos-related). Emergency service personnel are also responsible for managing and controlling the risk.</p> <p>Incident Controllers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Are required to ensure identified areas with potential ACM are noted in the development of the Incident Action Plan, particularly in relation to deployment orders, tasking, briefing and safety messaging. 2 Are required to ensure that crews and all persons at the incident site are briefed and provided information and/or maps at commencement of each shift on locations of known or suspected asbestos containing material (ACM). 3 Are required to ensure that risk controls are in place and ongoing monitoring is undertaken where damaged or friable asbestos and/or airborne asbestos fibres are known or suspected. 4 Are required to provide information on possible exposure to ACM to incoming Control Agencies, contractors and members of the public
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>The following definitions apply to this procedure:</p> <p>Asbestos</p> <p>Under the OHS Regulations, asbestos is defined in legislation</p> <p>Asbestos was commonly used in a wide variety of applications in Australia between the 1940s and late 1980s.</p> <p>The use of asbestos was gradually phased out in Australia from the mid-1980s, with the final ban coming into force on 31 December 2003.</p> <p>Asbestos containing materials (ACM)</p> <p>Any manufactured material or object that, as part of its design, contains one or more of the mineral silicates referred to above (other than plant in which asbestos is fixed or installed).</p> <p>Friable ACM</p> <p>ACM that when dry can, either in its current state or as a result of a work process, be pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure.</p> <p>Examples of friable ACM include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pipe lagging • fire retardant material on steel work • sprayed insulation • vinyl sheet with fibrous asbestos backing

	<p>Friable asbestos is more likely to release airborne asbestos fibres when disturbed.</p> <p>Non – friable ACM</p> <p>Non-friable ACM refers to any ACM where the asbestos fibres are usually bonded or mixed with a stable cement or other hard bonding component and so cannot be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure.</p> <p>Examples of non-friable ACM include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asbestos cement sheet • asbestos cement moulded products • bitumen-based water proofing • vinyl floor tiles <p>Non-friable asbestos in good condition is less likely to produce airborne fibres unless it is disturbed.</p> <p>Non-friable ACMs can deteriorate, resulting in their re-classification as 'friable'.</p> <p>An example is Cement sheeting can become friable because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact or crushing • natural weathering events • an extreme event such as heat from a fire <p>PPC&E Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment.</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>A contractor is any person or business entity, engaged by an agency, who enters a contractual arrangement to carry out work for that agency.</p>
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PROCEDURE

1. Identification
 - 1.1. Emergency responders should determine the potential for the presence of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) by referring to agency asbestos training and procedures and or they may Refer to Schedule 1- potential ACM locations.
 - 1.2. If asbestos is assumed to be present, it is considered to be identified for the purposes of 'Part 4.4 – Asbestos' of the OHS Regulations. OHS Regulations r226(3), r233(3)
 - 1.3. If ACM is assumed to be present, the Incident Controller is required to be notified (IC) of the potential ACM and the location. This notification is required to be extended to any future personnel to arrive onsite.
 - 1.4. The Incident Controller is required to ensure that all persons on scene are notified if there is potential for the presence and location of ACM.
 - 1.5. The Incident Controller is required to ensure the potentially affected area is isolated and or labelled as potential asbestos.

- 1.6. Entry into immediate area is required to be restricted to authorised personnel wearing the minimum PPC&E required by the Control Agency that includes personally fit tested respiratory equipment, such as a P2 particulate respirator or agency-specific breathing apparatus. (Refer to own agency procedures and note Standard AS/NZS 1716:2012)
2. Notification
 - 2.1. The IC is required to ensure the Incident Management Team (IMT), Incident Emergency Management Team (IEMT) and Regional Controller is informed of potential ACM and measures in place to mitigate exposure.
 - 2.2. If the emergency is a major emergency, The IC is required to ensure that a hazard and or Incident report logged in accordance with EMV JSOP 08.01 Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Hazard & Incident Reporting and Investigation - Major Emergencies
 - 2.3. The IC is required to also notify relevant external agencies, which may include but are not limited to:
 - Municipal Building Surveyor;
 - Building and or site owner (if available)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Other relevant agencies (as specified in EMV JSOP 08.01 Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Hazard & Incident Reporting and Investigation - Major Emergencies).
 - 2.4. If there are persons that require assessment, treatment and/or transport to hospital, the IC is required to ensure the Incident Health Commander and Paramedics are notified of the potential for the presence of ACM on affected patients.
 - 2.5. The IC will ensure that Incident Action Plans (IAP), maps and briefing materials reflect the potential ACM hazard and risks. This includes any handover communications and transition to recovery documentation.
3. Site Management
 - 3.1. The IC will ensure the potential exposure to asbestos is managed as prescribed below.
 - 3.2. The Incident Controller may appoint a Safety Officer to assist with asbestos risk management, where practicable.
 - 3.3. The IC or delegate, will determine if there is a risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres, and consider whether:
 - 3.3.1. ACM is in poor condition
 - 3.3.2. ACM is likely to sustain damage or deterioration
 - 3.3.3. asbestos is likely to be damaged or disturbed due to activities carried out, or
 - 3.3.4. asbestos is in an area where persons are exposed to the material.

- 3.4. To minimise the risk and potential exposure to ACM the Incident Controller is required to ensure that the area is Cordoned off and warning signage is erected to restrict further entry
- 3.5. To avoid further disturbance of ACM. Where practicable, wet down materials with water and maintain dampness. *Do not use brooms, brushes, high pressure water jets, power tools or other similar tools or instruments, as this may disturb fibres.*
- 3.6. Local weather conditions are required to be monitored for changes which may increase the risk of fibres becoming airborne (e.g., increased airflow or winds) and regular risk assessments are conducted.

4. Decontamination

- 4.1. If there is suspected ACM contamination because personnel have entered the affected area, the IC will ensure relevant agency decontamination arrangements are put in place.
- 4.2. Personnel potentially exposed to ACM or asbestos fibres are required to be decontaminated prior to leaving the site as per agency procedures.
- 4.3. Any equipment, vehicles and plant suspected of contamination are required to be decontaminated as per agency procedures.
- 4.4. The IC will ensure decontamination procedures are determined in consultation with agencies operating on site.
- 4.5. The IC is required to ensure onsite decontamination arrangements are in place at the decontamination site to meet likely requirements.
- 4.6. The IC will ensure an onsite decontamination location is determined, in consultation with Safety Officers and affected agencies, upwind of ACM, away from vehicles and with minimum potential for water run-off.
- 4.7. All potentially contaminated PPC&E is required to be bagged and labelled separately and placed in a secure area.as per agency procedures
- 4.8. Finalise decontamination:
 - 4.8.1. Sampling of any potential ACM for analysis and identification purposes is not required if asbestos is assumed to be present. Please refer to section 1.2 of this document.
 - 4.8.2. Any testing of PPC&E are to occur as per agency procedures.

5. Handover / Communication

- 5.1. If transfer of control occurs from one control agency to another, or from a control agency to a private contractor, the IC is to ensure that all available information regarding known or suspected ACM at an incident is communicated to oncoming Control Agencies, Private Contractors and members of the Community who may be at risk of exposure
- 5.2. Details of the date, time and names of Private Contractors and/or members of the community involved in this handover are to be noted in the record of the incident

6. Exposure

6.1. Agencies are required to notify individuals of any post-exposure analysis outcomes and take required action as per agency procedures.

7. Recording incident

7.1. The IC and agency commander/s will ensure reporting of incident is logged in accordance with own agency procedures

SAFETY

Emergency Personnel need to ensure that the protection and preservation of life is maintained at all times.

In the application of this JSOP the following safety considerations apply:

- Nil

REFERENCE

Related Documents	<p>Noel Arnold and Associates (2006). Report on the Investigation of the Effect of Fire on Asbestos Fibre Contamination</p> <p>WorkSafe Victoria (2016). Information about fire damaged non-friable asbestos containing material</p> <p>WorkSafe Victoria (2020). Bushfire recovery hazards - Asbestos</p> <p>EMV (2017). Uninhabitable Buildings Protocol</p> <p>EMV JSOP 08.01 OHS Hazard, Incident & Investigation reporting</p> <p>EMV JSOP 08.02 Dynamic Risk Assessment</p> <p>Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004</p> <p>Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2017</p>
Environment	<p>EPA (2017). Industrial Waste Resource Guideline – Asbestos transport and disposal</p>

REVIEW

Date Issue

Date Effective

Date to be Reviewed

Date to Cease

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AUTHORITY

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The Emergency Management Commissioner has issued this SOP under section 50 of the Emergency Management Act 2013.

Approved

Signature

Date

Andrew Crisp
Emergency Management Commissioner

Endorsed

Signature

Date

Jason Heffernan
Chief Officer, CFA

Chris Hardman
Chief Fire Officer, DELWP

Ken Block
Commissioner, FRV

Tim Wiebusch
Chief Officer Operations, VICSES

Schedule 1

Potential Asbestos Locations

Asbestos products may be found when attending incidents:

- Amongst dumped rubbish; and/or
- Involving vehicles, processing plant and equipment dating pre-1970s; and/or
- Involving dwellings and structures constructed prior to 1990s

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Common building and structural locations include:

Roof, downpipes, guttering and eaves:

Lining under the eaves
Loose roof insulation
Rainwater heads
Ridge tiles
Roof sheeting

Living and general purpose rooms:

Cement sheet walls & ceilings
Heating flue
Loose asbestos in the ceiling cavity

Kitchen:

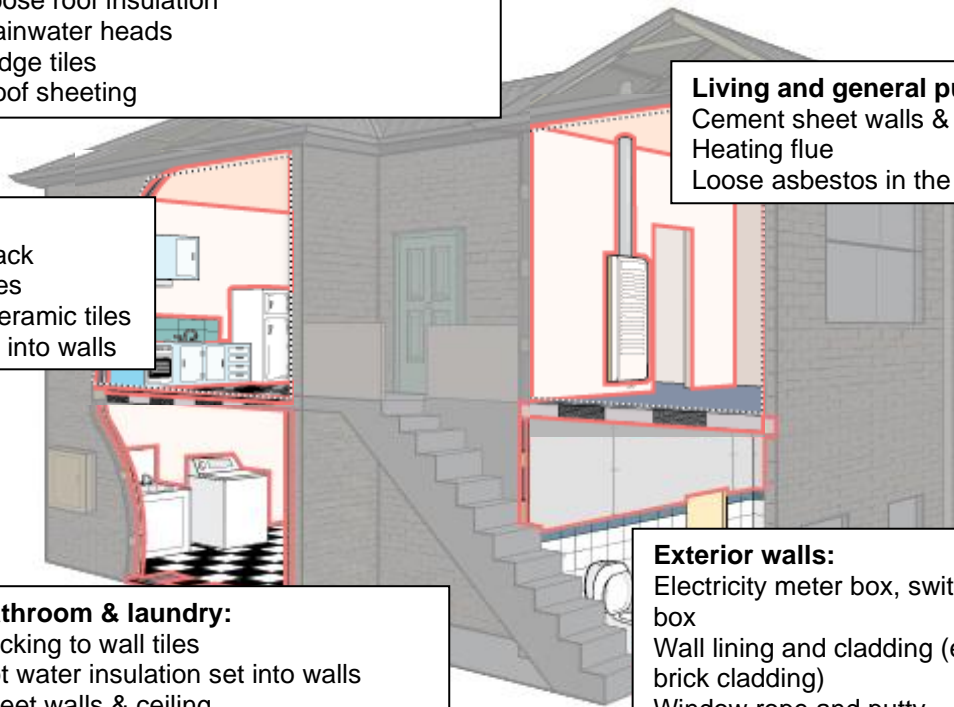
Walls, floors & splashback
Backing of vinyl floor tiles
Underlay sheeting for ceramic tiles
Hot water insulation set into walls

Bathroom & laundry:

Backing to wall tiles
Hot water insulation set into walls
Sheet walls & ceiling
Backing of vinyl floor tiles

Exterior walls:

Electricity meter box, switchboard & fuse box
Wall lining and cladding (e.g. imitation brick cladding)
Window rope and putty



Other possible locations:

- Plant and vehicles – gaskets and seals, brake linings and disc pads
- Outside – Asbestos in soil, wall and imitation brick cladding in shed, kennel and garage, fencing, loose asbestos cladding
- Other – Fire doors with asbestos core, telecommunication pits, building waste and dumped rubbish

