



## ASBESTOS INFORMATION FOR CLEANING UP DISASTER DEBRIS

### Stay Safe. Follow asbestos guidance during disaster recovery efforts.

- The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Asbestos National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) is intended to minimize the release of asbestos fibers during building demolition or renovation activities. The standard applies to demolitions and renovations of all structures, installations, and buildings (and in most cases excludes residential houses that have four or fewer dwelling units \*). The regulations require the owner of the building or the operator to notify the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) before any demolition, or before any renovations of buildings that could contain a certain threshold amount of asbestos-containing material.



- The debris generated by natural disaster (such as tornado, flooding or winter storm) is not regulated under the asbestos NESHAP. Nevertheless, DNR recommends handling such material cautiously. Wetting suspect material is the most common and effective method to control the release of asbestos fibers into the air and reduce the risk of inhalation. While wetting may not always be practical or safe (electrical shock/chemical reactions), it remains the primary method of asbestos fiber control.

**The following demolition and renovation activities are subject to asbestos NESHAP.** If subject to the asbestos NESHAP, notification requirements apply. See Asbestos Resources on back.

- **Public/commercial buildings** - Partially destroyed public/commercial buildings that will be demolished or renovated are subject to the requirements of the asbestos NESHAP. Requirements include a thorough inspection for asbestos, notification to the state DNR, removal and disposal of asbestos prior to demolition or renovation.
- **Structurally unsound buildings** – If a building subject to the asbestos NESHAP is structurally unsound and in danger of imminent collapse the requirements to inspect and remove asbestos material is waived--provided all the building material is treated as regulated asbestos-containing material. The material must be kept wet and transported to an acceptable disposal site. The city must make the determination if the building is unsound and order the demolition in writing. A copy of the order must be provided to Iowa DNR along with the demolition notification. Only permitted asbestos abatement contractors can perform ordered demolitions.
- **\* Single Family Dwellings** – The asbestos NESHAP does not apply to one single family dwelling provided the owner maintains ownership and oversees any renovation or demolition. When more than one single family dwelling is demolished or renovated as part of a larger project then those structures are subject to the asbestos NESHAP. Examples include FEMA and/or city projects.
- **Important:** Keep “disaster debris” separate from asbestos-containing material that is part of damaged commercial buildings subject to the asbestos NESHAP. If the debris is comingled then all debris becomes regulated by the Asbestos NESHAP regulations.

## Suspect Asbestos-Containing Material

**If unsure whether asbestos is present:** Determination of asbestos-containing material (ACM) can only be legally determined/identified by an accredited laboratory. However, suspect materials, those that may contain asbestos, are quite numerous. Lists of ACM are available on the DNR and EPA websites listed below. Examples of ACM that are most common in buildings are: 9 X 9 floor tile, transite-siding (cement board with asbestos), roofing tar, and air-cell pipe insulation. The following materials do not contain asbestos: metal, wood, glass, brick, stone and cement/concrete.

## Asbestos Resources

### Iowa DNR Asbestos Contacts

Tom Wuehr    515-725-9576

[DNR Asbestos information](http://www.iowadnr.gov/asbestos), includes Notification form. [www.iowadnr.gov/asbestos](http://www.iowadnr.gov/asbestos)

[EPA asbestos information](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos) for homeowners and regulated properties. [www.epa.gov/asbestos](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos)