

# Incidental Asbestos Disturbance and Emergency Response Procedures

# ****Purpose** In the event that an asbestos-containing material (ACM) or presumed asbestos-containing material (PACM) is disturbed, specific procedures have been established to minimize potential exposure and limit the spread of asbestos fibers.**

# ****Definitions** Incidental Asbestos Disturbance – an unintentional action or event in which it is feasible that asbestos fibers have been released into the air. Examples could include ACM or PACM being cut, torn, sanded, sawed, drilled, pulverized, or improperly removed.**

# **Asbestos Emergency – an uncontrolled release of asbestos fibers resulting from a building system failure, structural damage, fire, water damage, or other large-scale disturbance.**

**Procedures**

Although incidental asbestos disturbances and emergencies can vary widely in scope, scale and severity, immediate response actions are alike.

1. Do not attempt to clean any dust or debris. If debris exists on clothing, do not brush it off and await further EHS instruction.

2. Vacate the immediate area or room. Leave behind any tools, equipment, or personal items.

3. Restrict access to the room or area with the use of barrier tape or signage.

4. Call EHS at (814) 865-6391.

If an event occurs after hours or on weekends at University Park Campus, call OPP’s Work Control at (814) 865-4731.

If an event occurs after hours or on weekends at a Commonwealth Campus, contact the Campus’ Facilities Manager.

**EHS Response**

Based on the specific details of an incidental asbestos disturbance or asbestos emergency, EHS will design the appropriate response actions to protect human safety and remediate any potential asbestos contamination. This may include the arrangement of the cleanup and/or removal of material by licensed asbestos workers, air monitoring by 3rd party consulting firms, and the shutdown / isolation of HVAC systems. Furthermore, EHS will lead the incident investigation in order to identify causal factors and institute preventative actions.