



Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk Managing Unexpected Asbestos Finds on Worksites

Project Name: _____

Date: _____

Company Name: _____

Presenter: _____

Subject: **Managing unexpected asbestos finds on worksites**

Duration: _____

What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

To increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos on worksites and remind workers about asbestos management procedures if unexpected asbestos finds occur.

Are the laws about asbestos management and removal enforced?

YES! Legislation and guidance materials aimed at minimising exposure to asbestos fibres include:

- The Work Health & Safety Act
- The Work Health and Safety Regulations
- Codes of Practice; How to manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace and How to Safely Remove Asbestos

Why is important to understand and follow Unexpected ACM Discovery or Exposure Procedures?

- Tradies and workers can expect to encounter asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) in their daily work.
- If workers don't know how to manage unexpected asbestos discoveries safely, they risk inhaling asbestos fibres and/or exposing others if the material is disturbed.
- If fibres are inhaled, this could lead to asbestos-related diseases.

Risk management of unexpected asbestos finds:

- Most asbestos incidents happen when somebody disturbs asbestos because it hasn't been identified or suspected. These incidents are often uncontrolled, around unprotected persons and not properly acted upon

What should you do if you discover a material that you suspect contains Asbestos?

- If you think a material may contain asbestos, assume it is asbestos and take appropriate precautions.
- Follow Unexpected ACM Discovery or Exposure Procedures:
 - Stop work immediately!
 - Do not put yourself or others at risk of possible exposure by rushing into the affected area.
 - Calmly and carefully remove all persons from the immediate vicinity and establish an exclusion zone to prevent unauthorised access.
 - As soon as possible, report the discovery to the Site Manager / Supervisor or Person With Management or Control of a Workplace (PVMCW).
 - The Site Manager / Supervisor will engage a qualified Occupational Hygienist or licenced Asbestos Assessor to inspect the suspected asbestos containing material, take samples for laboratory analysis, and provide advice on control measures to avoid further disturbance.
- Health monitoring must be conducted if workers are carrying out any asbestos-related work or if they are or have been at risk of exposure to asbestos fibres.
- Workers must be informed by the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) if any health monitoring is required.

**Follow-up Toolbox Talk required: Actions undertaken by the PVMCW and Outcome of Actions
For Fact Sheets, information & ACM images visit asbestosawareness.com.au – it's not worth the risk!**

