



Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk – Naturally Occurring (NOA)

Project Name: _____

Date: _____

Company Name: _____

Presenter: _____

Subject: Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA)

Duration: _____

What is the aim of the Toolbox Talk?

Increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos among property owners and workers in rural and regional Australia where Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) has been identified or is suspected.

What is Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) and where is it found?

- ⊙ Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals made up of microscopic fibres.
- ⊙ It occurs naturally and is found on or below the ground's surface in some rocks, sediments and soils globally and in some regions in Australia.
- ⊙ NOA can be any size and shape and can be white, blue, green, grey or yellow in colour.
- ⊙ These variations make asbestos in its natural form difficult to identify.
- ⊙ In NSW, less than one percent of land is believed to contain NOA within 10 metres of the land surface.
- ⊙ Only testing of a sample by a NATA accredited laboratory which is collected by a competent person can confirm the presence of asbestos in any workplace including in building materials or in its natural forms.

Does NOA pose the same hazard to health as ACMs?

- ⊙ **YES!** ACMs are made using NOA.
- ⊙ In its natural state, **NOA presents the same health risks as asbestos-containing materials (ACMs)** and must be managed safely according to regulations.

Who should be aware of potential NOA risks and why?

- ⊙ People working on the land or in rural communities where NOA has been identified, need to be aware that naturally occurring asbestos could be uncovered and pose a hazard to health.
- ⊙ Property owners, managers and workers (including contractors) who may disturb the ground surface in their day-to-day work must be aware of NOA to ensure it is managed according to regulations.

When is NOA a potential risk?

- ⊙ Drilling post holes, digging the ground for other purposes such as planting, ploughing and cultivation
- ⊙ Excavation when building dams, digging foundations, pool and spa excavation, laying formwork for residential or farm structures, installing in-ground septic tanks, pits or underground water storage units
- ⊙ Laying of water and drainage pipes for homes, stock sheds or irrigation
- ⊙ Using digging equipment including earthmoving, grading, shovels and backhoes and quarrying
- ⊙ Timber growing, tree felling and land clearing
- ⊙ Stock movement (particularly in dry or drought affected regions where stock can generate dust)
- ⊙ Road construction, maintenance and vehicles travelling on unsealed roads or through dry paddocks
- ⊙ Gardening in rural regions including market and domestic gardens

What are the legal requirements for NOA?

- ⊙ If NOA is identified at the workplace or is likely to be present at the workplace, property owners and managers are legally required to develop and maintain an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) and have procedures in place to protect workers.
- ⊙ For information on managing NOA in accordance with regulations, download the free [Naturally Occurring Asbestos – Asbestos Management Guide](#) and various templates to manage it safely.

For Fact Sheets, information & images visit asbestosawareness.com.au – it's not worth the risk!

