

# National Asbestos Awareness Month Toolbox Talk

Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	National Asbestos Awareness Month	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 during <u>National Asbestos Awareness Month (November)</u>.

#### The 2022 National Asbestos Awareness Month theme is: 'Respect Asbestos – It's not worth the risk!'

#### Why is asbestos hazardous to workers?

- © Tradies and workers can expect to encounter asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) in their daily work.
- If workers don't know what to look for or how to manage asbestos safely, if ACMs are damaged or disturbed during work or demolition, asbestos fibres can be released into the air and be inhaled.
- ◎ If fibres are inhaled, this could lead to asbestos-related diseases.
- O Australia has one of the highest incidences of asbestos-related diseases in the world.
- ◎ An estimated 4,000 Australians die of asbestos-related diseases every year.
- O Deaths are predicted to rise as a direct result of exposure to asbestos fibres during home renovations, maintenance and demolition and in situations where people don't know if they risk disturbing ACMs.

#### What is the likelihood of workers coming in contact with asbestos in the workplace?

- O Asbestos was used in the manufacture of more than 3000 types of building and decorator products!
- Thousands of various types of ACMs remain hidden in 1-in-3 Australian homes including brick, weatherboard, Fibro, clad homes and apartments built or renovated before 1990.
- $\ensuremath{\mathbb O}$  ACMs can be in other buildings such as garages and farm structures
- © ACMs are found in commercial and non-residential properties constructed before 2004.

#### What steps must you take if you come across materials you suspect are asbestos?

Treat every suspected ACM as if it is asbestos and take all the required precautions including:

- O DO NOT DISTURB or handle it.
- C LEAVE IT where you find it.
- REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY to the worksite Site Manager / Supervisor or the Person With Management or Control of a Workplace (PWMCW).
- ◎ **IF YOU FIND DUMPED ASBESTOS**, report it immediately to your council and/or your local EPA.

#### Are the laws about asbestos management and removal enforced?

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

- O The Work Health & Safety Act & The Work Health and Safety Regulations
- Asbestos Codes of Practice (can vary in each state and territory so check with the regulator)
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#### What must workers NEVER do with asbestos?

Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! And whatever you do, don't dump it!"

When it comes to asbestos, the rule is; If you think a material may contain asbestos, assume it is asbestos and take appropriate precautions!

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date

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	it's not worth the risk!	awareness .com.au

### 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:

- O The Work Health & Safety Act
- O 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 (PWMCW).
  - 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.
- Itealth 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 PWMCW and Outcome of Actions For Fact Sheets, information & ACM images visit asbestosawareness.com.au – it's not worth the risk!

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date

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### Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk The Two Types of Asbestos Commonly Used in Construction

Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	The two types of asbestos common in construction	Duration:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

To remind workers about the two types of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) to be wary of to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres if ACMs are disturbed and fibres are released.

#### There are two types of ACMs that were common in construction: "non-friable" and "friable".

- 1. <u>NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS</u> (also known as 'bonded' ACMs) is material containing asbestos that is not friable asbestos including material containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound.
  - ◎ Non-friable ACMs cannot be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry.
  - Non-Friable ACMs are unlikely to release dangerous fibres posing health risks if they remain sealed, in good, stable condition and remain undisturbed.
  - Products containing non-friable asbestos can be found in one third of Australian homes.

#### When does non-friable asbestos become a hazard?

#### Non-friable ACMs CAN BECOME FRIABLE and a hazard:

- O During work or demolition
- If it is damaged, unsealed and exposed to weather
- If damaged by fire, hail, floods or storms
- ◎ If high pressure water or compressed air is applied to the ACM material
- If ACMs are not managed safely according to regulations
- © If damaged, ACMs must be assessed by a competent person to determine the risk

#### IMPORTANT: Fire damaged ACMs are extremely dangerous!

# 2. <u>FRIABLE ASBESTOS</u> is extremely hazardous because the fibres are uncontained and can easily become airborne!

- Friable asbestos is any material containing asbestos in the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.
- Friable asbestos was mainly used in industrial applications and commercial or non-residential structures.

#### What are some examples of friable asbestos?

- © Fire retardants sprayed coatings on walls and beams including steel
- Insulation sprayed in building cavities
- Cose asbestos in ceiling or floor and riser cavities and roof spaces
- O Textured coatings sprayed onto ceilings
- © Pipe lagging and mill board in air conditioning heater banks and hot water system components

#### Only Licenced Asbestos Removalists should remove ACMs!

#### There are 2 types of Asbestos Removal Licences - Class A and Class B.

- © Class A Licence: can remove ALL types of asbestos including friable material.
- © Class B Licence: can ONLY remove non-friable (solid) asbestos materials (such as Fibro).

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date



# 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 ad 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.
- O 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, <u>NOA presents the same health risks as asbestos-containing materials (ACMs)</u> and must 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 it 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 <u>Naturally</u> <u>Occurring Asbestos – Asbestos Management Guide</u> and various templates to manage it safely. For Fact Sheets, information & images visit asbestosawareness.com.au – it's not worth the risk!

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date
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Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

Subject:

Increase compliance in asbestos management on worksites to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres.

#### Workers must manage asbestos in the workplace in accordance with WHS regulations!

In a workplace, the person with management or control of a workplace must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that all asbestos or ACMs at the workplace is identified by a competent person.

Duration:

#### Assessing the workplace for asbestos

- ◎ If asbestos is suspected in a workplace, assume asbestos is present and take every precaution!
- Before commencing any work, renovations, refurbishments or demolition on properties, it must be determined if ACMs are present to ensure they're managed safely and in accordance with WHS regulations.
- A preliminary assessment of a workplace where asbestos is assumed (i.e. any residential property built prior to 1990 or commercial or non-residential property prior to 2004) must be conducted by a person with appropriate training in identifying ACMs and appropriate building and construction knowledge and experience capable of determining if asbestos is likely to be present.

#### How can workers conduct an asbestos assessment and visual inspection of a residential property?

O You can't tell if a material contains asbestos just by looking at it!

Managing asbestos in the workplace

- © The **ONLY** way to confirm asbestos is present is by having a sample tested by a NATA laboratory.
- Although only scientific testing can confirm if asbestos is present, a visual inspection can be conducted by a competent person to record the various locations of possible ACMs in residential properties by using the FREE Total Property Residential Asbestos Checklist for Tradies
- The Checklist is a step-by-step guide of the sorts of ACMs to look for and their possible locations. NOTE: It is NOT an Asbestos Register or Management Plan and DOES NOT replace scientific testing required to confirm if asbestos is present.

#### Who can assess asbestos risks?

A licenced asbestos assessor or removalist, or an occupational hygienist can assess if a material has potential to contain asbestos which can be confirmed through testing by a NATA accredited laboratory.

#### What steps must you take if you come across materials you suspect are asbestos?

- © **TREAT** every suspected ACM as if it is asbestos and take all the required precautions including:
- O DO NOT DISTURB or handle it.
- LEAVE IT where you find it.
- REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY to the Site Manager / Supervisor or Person With Management or Control of a Workplace (PWMCW).
- © LICENCED asbestos removalists should remove and dispose of asbestos according to regulations.

If you suspect it may contain asbestos; Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't drop it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! Don't demolish it! And whatever you do... Don't dump it!

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date



# Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk – Exploding Asbestos Myths

Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	Exploding the myths of working with asbestos	Duration:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

#### To ensure workers fulfil their responsibilities to manage asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) safely.

#### What are the myths surrounding working with asbestos?

- Some older tradies and workers who've worked with ACMs in the past persist in ignoring the warnings and continue to take risks when working with asbestos.
- It's NOT okay to take risks when working with asbestos!
- ◎ It's **NOT** okay for workers or home owners to disturb, cut or drill small amounts of asbestos!

#### Why is it important to manage asbestos safely and in accordance with regulations?

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

#### There are two types of ACMs that were common in construction: "non-friable" and "friable".

- NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS (also known as 'bonded' ACMs) is material containing asbestos that is not friable asbestos including materials containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound. It cannot be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry.
   NOTE: Non-friable ACMs CAN BECOME FRIABLE if damaged, unsealed and exposed to weather!
- 2. FRIABLE ASBESTOS is any material containing asbestos in the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. FRIABLE ASBESTOS IS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS because the fibres are uncontained and can easily become airborne!

#### Don't put your health at risk! It's okay to say NO!

- © Every worker has the right to remain safe at work and has the responsibility to respect asbestos and manage it safely!
- ◎ If asked to perform a task involving ACMs that you believe is unsafe, it's okay to say NO!
- © Talk to your Site Manager / Supervisor, your boss or your WH&S representative immediately.
- If the only person you work with is your boss, talk to them about your concerns.
- If your boss or others won't listen or you feel you can't talk to them, remember, you have a responsibility to yourself and your family to stay safe!
- ◎ If no one will listen you can report unsafe practices to the regulator in your state or territory.

#### 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
- Solution Asbestos Codes of Practice (can vary in each state and territory so check with the regulator)

#### When it comes to asbestos, the rule is:

If you think a material may contain asbestos, assume it is asbestos and take appropriate precautions! *For Fact Sheets, information & ACM images visit asbestosawareness.com.au – it's not worth the risk!* 

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date

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Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk Commercial & Non-Residential Properties	

Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	Commercial and non-residential properties	Duration:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

#### Increase compliance in asbestos management in the commercial and non-residential property sector.

#### Asbestos must be managed in the workplace in accordance with WHS regulations!

- In a workplace, the person with management or control of a workplace must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that asbestos or ACMs in the workplace are identified by a competent person.
- Before commencing any work, renovations, refurbishments or demolition on any property, it must be determined if ACMs are present to ensure they're managed safely in accordance with WHS regulations.

#### Assessing the workplace for asbestos

- ◎ If asbestos is suspected in a workplace, assume asbestos is present and take every precaution!
- A preliminary assessment of a workplace where asbestos is assumed must be conducted by a person with appropriate training in identifying ACMs and appropriate building and construction knowledge and experience capable of determining if asbestos is likely to be present.
- Asbestos assessment reports / asbestos registers must be made available to all workers / PCBU's intending to perform work at the workplace.

#### In which commercial or non-residential properties might asbestos be found?

Asbestos could be found in multiple locations in many commercial or non-residential property constructed prior to 2004.

#### Are there laws governing management of asbestos in commercial and non-residential properties?

- Yes! Significant penalties apply if asbestos is not managed in accordance with government WHS regulations.
- The WH&S framework must be applied to ensure the health of workers and others when work is being carried out and should be applied in conjunction with the relevant Codes of Practice.

#### Managing asbestos in commercial & non-residential properties

The Person with Management or Control of a Workplace (PWMCW) must ensure policies and procedures are in place to manage asbestos in accordance with legislation to ensure effective control, management or removal of any asbestos or ACM from commercial and non-residential properties.

#### What records must be developed, implemented and maintained by the PWMCW?

- O Asbestos Management Plan
- © Risk Assessment
- O Asbestos Register
- Safe Work Procedures and Control Plans
- O Unexpected Asbestos Finds Procedures
- Procedures for Emergencies, Incidents and Investigation Reports
- © Workers training records training undertaken, consultation with and health monitoring of workers
- © Copies of Asbestos Removal Plans that are the responsibility of the licenced asbestos removalist
- Any air monitoring undertaken and Clearance Certificates issued

**NOTE:** For information on managing asbestos in accordance with regulations, download the free <u>Asbestos</u> <u>Management Handbook for Commercial and Non-residential Properties and associated templates</u> *For Fact Sheets, information & ACM images visit asbestosawareness.com.au – it's not worth the risk!* 

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date

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ADVOCACY asbestos	ASBESTOS	asbestos
	it's not worth the risk!	amaleuess .com.au

# Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk Asbestos Management Plan & Asbestos Register

Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	Asbestos Management Plan & Asbestos Register	Duration:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

Increase compliance in asbestos management on worksites to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres by reminding workers of the importance of an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) and Asbestos Register.

#### Workers must manage asbestos in the workplace in accordance with WHS regulations!

In a workplace, the person with management or control of a workplace must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that all asbestos or ACMs at the workplace is identified by a competent person.

#### What is an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP)?

- An Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) is mandatory in the workplace to ensure all practicable steps are taken to prevent or minimise the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres by contractors, workers, the public or anyone present at a property if and when work is to be conducted where asbestos has been identified or is assumed.
- An AMP ensures asbestos is managed in accordance with regulations to identify asbestos, remove, manage or monitor its condition and implement appropriate control measures including ensuring asbestos or ACM is not disturbed.
- The Person with Management or Control of a Workplace (PWMCW) is responsible for developing and maintaining the AMP and all associated records including the Asbestos Register.

#### What is an Asbestos Register and why is it important?

- An Asbestos Register is a record of the locations where asbestos has been identified or is suspected in any property built before 2004 or if asbestos has been found at the workplace.
- ◎ An Asbestos Register should be in place as part of the Asbestos Management Plan.
- © According to Work Health and Safety Regulations, Asbestos Registers must be a complete record of:
  - All identified (or assumed) asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) in a workplace
  - The date/s when asbestos or ACM was identified and the locations
  - The type of asbestos (friable, non-friable, fixed or installed)
  - The material or product containing asbestos (wall or floor coverings, lagging, sprayed insulation) and the condition of the material (sealed, unsealed, damaged etc.)
  - The details and locations of inaccessible areas where asbestos is suspected (although unconfirmed) including in fire doors, within roofs, wall cavities, electrical, ducts etc.
  - If testing is conducted, results of any analysis that confirms a material is or is not asbestos
  - Photographs or drawings that visually demonstrate the location and type of asbestos or ACM
  - If no asbestos or ACMs have been identified, it should be noted that it is unlikely to be present

#### Who is responsible for ensuring the asbestos register is maintained and accessible?

The person with management or control of the workplace must ensure that the asbestos register is readily accessible to:

- $\tilde{O}$  A worker who has carried out, carries out or intends to carry out work at the workplace
- Itealth and safety representatives who represent workers that carry out or intend to carry out work at the workplace

- A Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) who has carried out, carries out or intends to carry out work at the workplace
- O A PCBU who has required, requires or intends to require work to be carried out at the workplace

#### When should the Asbestos Register be updated?

- O An Asbestos Register must be reviewed and revised if the Asbestos Management Plan is reviewed, if further asbestos or ACMs are identified and if asbestos is removed, disturbed, sealed or enclosed.
- ◎ The register should be reviewed at least once every five years to ensure it is kept up to date.
- Solution on AMPs and Asbestos Registers download the free <u>Asbestos Management</u> <u>Handbook for Commercial and Non-residential Properties and associated templates</u>.

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date



# Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk – Residential Properties

Project Name:		_ Date: _	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	Asbestos in residential properties	Duration:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

Increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) in residential properties and to remind workers to manage asbestos safely to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres.

#### How common is asbestos in Australian homes?

- ◎ 1-in-3 homes contain asbestos including brick, weatherboard, Fibro, clad homes and apartments.
- ◎ If a home was built or renovated prior to 1990, it most likely contains asbestos in some form or another.
- O Asbestos was used in the manufacture of more than 3000 types of building and decorator products!
- © Prior to 1990, asbestos was widely used in a range of building and decorator materials.

#### What other types of residential property structures might contain asbestos?

- O Asbestos was commonly used to build outdoor toilets, garages, carports, sheds and even dog kennels.
- It was also used to build fences and may have been used as formwork for footings.
- O Asbestos was sometimes mixed with cement and could be wherever cement was used in construction.
- ◎ In regional and rural areas, it was common to use Fibro to build sheds for stock and storage.

#### What are the most common ACMs used in the construction of residential properties?

Flat and corrugated AC sheeting (Fibro) was commonly used in the construction of homes.

- © Fibro (flat and corrugated) internal walls and ceilings
- © Fibro (flat and corrugated) external walls and cladding, eaves, infill panels in windows and doors
- © Fibro (flat and corrugated) garages, outside toilets, carports, backyard sheds and dog kennels
- © Corrugated AC sheeting was also used for roofing including "Super Six' and to construct fences

#### AC sheeting was not the only ACM used in building homes. ACMs were commonly used:

- In wet areas including kitchens, bathrooms and laundries
- O As insulation in heating wood heaters, stoves, sheeting under hearths, flue pipes, textile oven seals
- Roofing (corrugated) and roofing shingles
- O Fencing (flat and corrugated)
- O Flat sheeting under floor tiles
- O Bathroom and laundry walls and kitchen splash backs
- © Electrical switchboards
- Backing to vinyl floor tiles and sheet vinyl floor coverings
- O Carpet underlay
- O Backing behind ceramic wall tiles
- © Water drainage, downpipes and guttering
- ◎ In some homes in NSW and ACT, loose-fill asbestos was used in ceiling space as insulation.
- ◎ Garden beds It was common practice for workers to bury broken pieces of ACMs on building sites.

#### What should workers do before commencing any work, renovations, refurbishments or demolition?

- **Workers MUST** determine if asbestos is present to ensure it is managed safely in line with regulations.
- $\ensuremath{\mathbb O}$  An Occupational Hygienist or Licenced Asbestos Assessor can determine if asbestos is present.
- ◎ **IMPORTANT:** Only use Licenced Asbestos Removalists to remove and dispose of ACMs.

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date



# Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk – Rural & Regional Properties

Project Name:		Date:	
Company Name:		Presenter:	
Subject:	Asbestos on rural and regional properties	Duration:	

#### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

Increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos among property owners, managers and workers in rural and regional Australia.

#### How common is asbestos in Australian homes?

- ◎ 1-in-3 homes contain asbestos including brick, weatherboard, Fibro, clad homes and apartments.
- © Prior to 1990, asbestos was widely used in a range of building and decorator materials.
- O Asbestos was used in the manufacture of more than 3000 types of building and decorator products!
- ◎ If a home was built or renovated prior to 1990, it most likely contains asbestos in some form or another.

#### What other types of residential property structures might contain asbestos?

- O Asbestos was commonly used to build outdoor toilets, garages, carports, sheds and even dog kennels.
- ◎ It was also used to build fences and may have been used as formwork for footings.
- O Asbestos was sometimes mixed with cement and could be wherever cement was used in construction.
- ◎ In regional and rural areas, it was common to use Fibro to build sheds for stock and storage.

#### What are the most common ACMs used in the construction of homes and sheds?

- © Fibro (flat and corrugated) internal walls and ceilings
- © Fibro (flat and corrugated) external walls and cladding, eaves, infill panels in windows and doors
- © Fibro (flat and corrugated) garages, outside toilets, carports, backyard sheds, fencing and dog kennels
- © Corrugated AC sheeting was also used for roofing including "Super Six' and to construct fences

#### Asbestos was used in the manufacture of more than 3000 building and decorator products including:

- © Electrical switchboards
- O In wet areas including kitchens and kitchen splash backs as well as bathrooms and laundries
- O As insulation in heating wood heaters, stoves, sheeting under hearths, flue pipes, textile oven seals
- Backing to vinyl floor tiles, sheet vinyl floor coverings, carpet underlay and behind ceramic wall tiles
- © Garden beds It was common practice for workers to bury broken pieces of ACMs on building sites

#### Any structure that might be located in rural and regional properties could contain asbestos.

- © Fibro was commonly used to build 'weekenders' or 'shacks' in the bush and coastal regions.
- © Farm structures including sheds and barns were constructed from Fibro to house equipment and stock.
- Fibro was widely used to construct 'sleep-out' additions to farmhouses, workers accommodation for shearers and farm-hands, outhouses and water tanks.
- O ACM water pipes were used for downpipes and guttering, irrigation and drainage.
- © Fibro was also commonly used to build community housing throughout much of regional Australia.

#### What are some of the asbestos hazards in rural and regional communities?

- O Abandoned homes and farm structures that may be damaged, neglected or unpainted.
- O Dumped asbestos materials.
- © Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) in areas where NOA has been identified.

Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date