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.
- 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?

- 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.
- 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
- In wet areas including kitchens and kitchen splash backs as well as bathrooms and laundries
- 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.
- 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?

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

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

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Participant's Name	Signature	Company	Date