How to deal with fly-tipped asbestos waste

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you recognise fly-tipped material as containing asbestos that you need to deal with.

Preparing the work area

- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- Use tape and notices to warn others.

Equipment

- 1000-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape;
- warning tape and notices;
- shovel;
- tent pegs;
- garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent, eg diluted washing-up liquid;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack;
- asbestos warning stickers; and
- clear polythene sack.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - see sheet em6

Provide:
- disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
- boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate); and
- respiratory protective equipment.

Procedure

- Notify the relevant authority - see ‘Useful links’.
- Estimate the amount and type of asbestos waste.
- If the waste is spread around or mixed with non-asbestos material, get an HSE-licensed contractor to deal with it.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

Small amount of any asbestos-containing waste

- Dampen and place pieces in an asbestos waste container.
- Shovel damp residues into the container.

Large amount of asbestos-containing waste

- Cover the waste securely with 1000-gauge polythene sheet. Peg it down with tent pegs. Attach asbestos warning stickers.
- Mark out an exclusion zone with warning tape.
- If the waste is in an inhabited area, make arrangements to secure the site until it is removed.
MORE HELP

- Licensed asbestos contractors, and training providers - HSE's Infoline
  Tel: 0845 345 0055
  Textphone: 0845 408 9577
  e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com
  and at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm

- HSE priced and free publications - HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165
  and at www.hsebooks.co.uk

- Qualified hygienists - The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
  Tel: 01332 298101
  and at www.bohs.org/ under ‘Professional > Consultants’

- Trade associations - the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA)
  Tel: 01283 531126 Website: www.arcaweb.org.uk, or the Asbestos
  Control and Abatement Division (ACAD)
  Tel: 01325 466704

- Disposal of asbestos waste - www.environment-agency.co.uk,
  www.sepa.org.uk/, or www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs.

- More asbestos pictures - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm

- Help to decide if work is licensed - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/
  index.htm

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Put used rags and other waste in the asbestos waste container and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack and tape it closed.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination

- See sheet em8

Further information

- Surveying, sampling and assessment of asbestos-containing materials
  MDHS100 HSE Books 2001 ISBN 978 0 7176 2076 0
  www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/index.htm

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Download and follow these advice sheets from www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm:

- em1 What to do if you uncover or damage materials that could contain asbestos
- em2 Training
- em5 Wetting asbestos materials
- em6 Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- em8 Personal decontamination
- em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

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- Disposal - see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination

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Further information

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This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

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