



Office of Environmental  
Health & Safety

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To: UCSF Campus Community

From: Robert Eaton  
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Subject: PUBLIC NOTICE  
**Asbestos-Containing Building Materials at UCSF**

The Asbestos Notification Act (Health and Safety Code 25915, et seq.) states that the owner of any building constructed prior to 1981 shall notify all employees in writing regarding the presence of asbestos containing building materials, content and results of survey reports, specific locations which contain asbestos, and general procedures required to minimize exposure and potential health risks.

The majority of UCSF-owned buildings contain asbestos in some areas. Prior to 1981, asbestos, which is a naturally occurring mineral fiber, was used in a wide variety of construction products including spray-applied fireproofing, piping, boiler and air duct insulation, roofing materials, cements and wallboard, surfacing plasters, acoustical treatments, vinyl floor tile, adhesives, ceiling tile, counter tops, and fire doors. The University has conducted numerous building surveys and has implemented stringent control measures to identify and safely manage these types of asbestos-containing products.

Asbestos is only a hazard when small fibers become airborne and are inhaled or deposited within the lungs. Several illnesses including asbestosis, a debilitating lung disease, lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung cavity lining, have been observed in asbestos industry workers that were exposed to high levels of airborne asbestos over extended periods of time.

When asbestos products are left undisturbed, the fibers will not be released into the workplace and the health risk is minimal. When suspect materials are disturbed through construction, repair or asbestos removal activities, specific regulatory procedures to prevent exposure are strictly followed by UCSF.

Suspect building materials must be inspected for asbestos by the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) prior to the commencement of destructive demolition or removed. This includes possible cutting, drilling, sanding, grinding, or other destructive activity. Immediately report any observed damage to suspect materials to your supervisor, building manager, and OEHS.

UCSF is committed to safely and effectively managing asbestos on campus. The University maintains staff of certified professionals at OEHS who conduct building material surveys, coordinate and supervise asbestos abatement activities, perform air monitoring and provide training. Asbestos survey results listing specific locations where asbestos may be encountered, detailed procedures on working with asbestos sample analysis results are available for review and photocopying to all interested employees. If you have specific questions related to this information or would like an OEHS staff member to review the above information with you, please contact OEHS at 476-1300.