

In addition to the physical hazards that can be found in construction, there are many health hazards that workers should be aware of for their own protection. Most workers have heard of asbestos but may not understand why it should be a concern.

OSHA Standard 1926.1101 covers all construction work involving asbestos containing materials including demolition, removal, repairs, maintenance, or renovation, and installation of products containing asbestos.

Why is asbestos so dangerous?

According to OSHA, asbestos is known to cause cancer in humans and can cause chronic lung disease and other health hazards.

Workers may not know they are contaminated because symptoms of these health hazards and even cancer may take many years to develop following exposure to the asbestos containing material.

Where can asbestos be found?

Asbestos can be found in many area including pipe insulation, floor tiles, roofing tiles, boiler insulation and siding.

If you aren't sure if it contains asbestos **do not disturb it!**

- Never enter into a restricted asbestos area. Read and **follow warning signs** or barricades.

OSHA Standard 1926.1101(e)(2) states that regulated areas shall be demarcated [barricaded or marked].

- When asbestos is disturbed it breaks down into tiny fibers that can easily be inhaled into the lungs.
- Only workers who are specially trained and equipped can install, remove, or disturb asbestos containing materials.
- Proper protective equipment must be worn at all times, depending on the type of activity performed.