

SAFETY LESSONS LEARNED BULLETIN

Asbestos Awareness

Issued: July 2020

We have had a few instances over the last 12 months that have involved the disturbance of Asbestos containing materials, we would like to remind you of processes/procedures if any materials are damaged or disturbed in future.

Information sharing:

There have been a number of safety incidents relating to asbestos and questions raised regarding the process to be followed when issues arise

Some key themes raised include:

- Knowledge of where asbestos may be
- Sharing information regarding the potential presence of asbestos with others including our contract partners
- How to identify asbestos – not all Asbestos containing Materials (ACMs) are highlighted by asbestos labelling
- Who manages asbestos – Severn Trent and use of our asbestos contract partners
- What to do when discovering damaged asbestos or containing materials (ACMs)
- How to dispose of ACM's
- How to report asbestos related incidents

As part of ensuring everyone has information and knowledge, the HSW Standard Managing Asbestos has been reviewed and will have an increased frequency on the HSW standards programme and will be updated in the HSW standards programme calendar

The HSW standard can be referred to as awareness or information at any time, you do not have to wait for the HSW standards programme to do this

Key messaging:

- Take the opportunity to discuss in your teams understanding and requirements regarding asbestos
- Due to the age of our buildings and assets, always assume asbestos may be present – not all ACMs will be labelled
- Ensure asbestos hazards are highlighted for any intrusive work being undertaken and that any risk assessments/method statements submitted include appropriate control measures – if the job changes, STOP and ensure information is updated and recorded
- Ensure that asbestos information is made available to anyone undertaking work on our sites/assets and that information is highlighted as part of site Inductions
- If any damage is discovered or takes place that involve ACMs – STOP, secure the area and notify that asbestos has potentially been disturbed. DO NOT re-enter the area. Do not try to clean/move any suspected Asbestos containing materials as this could contaminate other areas and people, report to your manager immediately
- Report all incidents involving ACMs as soon as they happen or are discovered and follow the Asbestos reporting process.
- Review the HSW Standard - Managing Asbestos and the associated tool- box- talk as part of the compliance programme for you and your teams where the standard applies.



**Caution
Asbestos**

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