

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires schools to ensure that workers and building occupants or their legal guardians are informed at least once each school year about inspections, response actions, and other activities related to asbestos in the school.

General Information on Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is mined from the earth, and added to certain products including building materials such as floor tiles, piping insulation, plaster, or other building substrates. It was widely used in building materials in the past for its superior insulation properties, fireproofing properties, and the ability it has to strengthen and add longevity to building substrates. Inhalation of asbestos fibers has been shown to have serious health risks such as Asbestosis, Lung Cancer, and Mesothelioma. These diseases can be a consequence of asbestos exposure, however, symptoms may take many years to develop. It should be noted that building occupants are only at risk to asbestos exposure when building materials containing asbestos are disturbed or damaged. When materials that contain asbestos are intact, the asbestos fibers remain dormant in the substrate.

Damage or disturbance to these materials can cause a release of asbestos fibers that can lead to exposure. For this reason, the condition and locations of known or assumed asbestos containing materials is checked periodically to ensure appropriate response actions to any damage or disturbance to building materials thought to contain asbestos.

Steps that are being taken to protect the health and safety of people in the school Periodic surveillance of the schools is performed to monitor the condition changes of any materials that are known or presumed to contain asbestos. A comprehensive list of the types and locations of building materials in the school that are known or presumed to contain asbestos is available in the school's Asbestos Management Plan, located in the custodial office.

Asbestos Management Plan

A written Asbestos Management Plan is available that documents inspection and surveillance activities, known and presumed asbestos containing materials in the building, records of asbestos-related building material disturbances and response activities, and post-response documentation. The Asbestos Management Plan is located in the custodial office and is available for review by parents, legal guardians, teachers, other school personnel, representatives of EPA, representatives of the State, and the public.

The designated person for the Miles City Public School's AHERA program is Mark Paulson, and he can be contacted by telephone at 406-234-3840.