

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND EMPLOYEES OF SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Required by the *Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule*, §§ 763.84(c) and 763.93(g)(4))

Asbestos is a naturally-occurring fibrous mineral which, until about 1980, was commonly used in building construction. Asbestos will not burn, is an excellent insulator, has great tensile strength, is resistant to chemicals, is a nonconductor of electricity, and absorbs sound. Examples of *asbestos-containing building material (ACBM)* are vinyl floor tile, sprayed-on acoustical ceiling material, pipe and boiler insulation, and roofing felt. As ACBM deteriorates over time, or is disturbed by maintenance, renovation, or demolition activities, it may become *friable*, i.e., it is capable of being reduced to powder by hand pressure. When ACBM becomes *friable*, asbestos fibers are released into the air. Inhalation of these airborne, microscopic asbestos fibers has been proven to cause such fatal diseases as lung cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lung or abdominal cavity), and asbestosis (scarring of lung tissues). Uncontrolled asbestos contamination in buildings has been, and remains, a significant environmental and public health issue. In 1986, Congress enacted the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)* to require public and private, secondary and elementary schools to identify ACBM in their school buildings and take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. In 1987, the US Environmental Protection Agency finalized a regulatory program which enforces the *AHERA* mandate. These regulations are incorporated within the *Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule* (40 C.F.R. Part 763, Subpart E).

In compliance with the *Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule*, SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS had its school building(s) inspected by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the State of Montana. During that inspection, areas of suspect ACBM were identified. The type, condition, and location of this ACBM was noted. Samples were taken of some or all of the suspect ACBM. Laboratory analysis of these samples confirmed the presence or absence of ACBM. Suspect ACBM not sampled and analyzed were assumed to contain asbestos. Confirmed and/or assumed ACBM currently remain in certain locations in our school building(s).

Upon confirmation of the presence of ACBM, an Asbestos Management Plan was developed for each of the school buildings in the School District by an asbestos management planner, accredited by the State of Montana. *The Asbestos Management Plan(s) include a description of the measures currently being taken to ensure that the ACBM remaining in our school building(s) is maintained in a condition that will not pose a threat to the health of our students and employees.* These Plan(s) describe past response actions taken to abate ACBM, as well as response actions planned for the future. The Asbestos Management Plan(s) provide information on the periodic monitoring of the condition of ACBM remaining in our school building(s) through triennial reinspections, conducted by accredited asbestos inspectors, and through semiannual surveillance, conducted by trained school maintenance staff.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for your review in the School District administrative office during regular office hours. Tami Edinger is the designated Asbestos Program Coordinator for the Sidney Public Schools. Please direct all inquiries regarding the Asbestos Management Plan(s) to her at telephone (406) 433-2366.