



Prior to renovation or demolition activities of a facility structure in your city, complete a thorough asbestos inspection and submit an NOI to DEQ.

### ASBESTOS AND FIREFIGHTERS

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. Asbestos may be found in many building materials such as insulation, flooring, ceiling sections, shingles, or siding. Health studies have linked asbestos fibers to serious health problems. The mere presence of asbestos in a building is not an immediate risk to people and the environment; however, danger exists when asbestos material is damaged or improperly removed and releases fibers into the air.

During a fire, firefighters can be exposed to a broad spectrum of building materials and in older buildings some of these materials can contain asbestos. Fires may cause nonfriable asbestos materials (materials in which the asbestos fibers are not easily broken apart) to become friable so firefighter exposure to a hazard such as asbestos warrants special consideration and procedures.

### ASBESTOS FORMS

**Notification of Intent (NOI)** should be submitted ten working days prior to the start of any work which includes site preparation that would break up, dislodge, or disturb any asbestos containing materials. The ten working day waiting period starts from the date that the NOI is postmarked or hand delivered to the DEQ headquarters. NOI's cannot be emailed as they require an original signature.

**Notification of Intent Revisions (NOIR)** should be submitted when there is any change in start date, change in end date, discovery of additional asbestos not previously disclosed in the asbestos survey, etc. and must be submitted in a timely manner. Applicable fees my apply.

All forms can be located on the DEQ website. Call 501.682.0718 for more information.

### FACTS TO KNOW

1

The only way to determine if there is asbestos in any structure is to have an Arkansas licensed asbestos inspector take samples to send to a laboratory.

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Regardless of who owns the structure Regulation 21 may apply.

3

Regulation 21 does not apply to single family dwellings (SFD) occupied by the homeowner, but it does regulate SFDs in the following categories:

- Intentionally burned for fire training by fire departments
- Demolished for urban renewal or highway development
- Used as or by a commercial business

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Regulation 21 applies only to facilities as defined by the regulation. The following is a list of examples of the types of structures that are considered to be a facility: Institutional, commercial, public, industrial, school, church, one apartment, boarding house, residential cooperative, or condominium with more than four units.

## ASBESTOS AND OPEN BURNING

The open burning of refuse, garbage, trade waste, or other waste material, or conducting a salvage operation by open burning is prohibited by provisions of Reg. 18.602 with certain exceptions including:

- Fires used for non-commercial cooking of food or for ceremonial/recreational purposes
- Open burning related to agricultural activities including, but limited to, clearing previously uncultivated lands and burning of debris on previously harvested fields
- Controlled fires used for purposes of forest and wildlife management
- Controlled fires used only for on-site land clearing operations
- Fires set or authorized by any public officer, board, council or commission in the performance of the duty of the officer to abate weeds, prevent/eliminate fire hazards, or for the purposes of instruction in methods of firefighting or for civil defense instruction (See Reg. 18.603 in its entirety for all exemptions)

Arkansas law allows a property owner to conduct a controlled burn of a residence or structure on the property owner's property in the county if the:

1. Property owner applies to the quorum court of that county and the fire department that is responsible for providing fire protection services for approval to conduct the burn.
2. Application is approved by the quorum court and fire department.

Before approval the property owner must demonstrate the structure is asbestos free, free of contents and that any remaining debris will be disposed of properly.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICE FIRE BURNS

The intentional burning of facilities, including structures burned for fire training, is considered to be a demolition under state and federal asbestos regulations. This is true even if no asbestos is present in the structure. These steps are required PRIOR to conducting a demolition by practice fire burn:

1. Have a thorough inspection conducted on the structure for the presence of asbestos by an Arkansas certified asbestos inspector that is working for Arkansas licensed firm.
2. Have ALL regulated asbestos-containing material removed, including Category I and Category II nonfriable asbestos containing material, PRIOR to conducting a practice fire burn.
3. Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Asbestos Program at least ten working days before the demolition by practice fire burn takes place.

## EXAMPLES OF BUILDING MATERIALS KNOWN TO CONTAIN ASBESTOS

- Cement Pipes
- Laboratory Hoods/Table Tops
- Elevator Brake Shoes
- Cement Wallboard
- HVAC Duct Insulation
- Cement Siding
- Fire Blankets
- Boiler Insulation
- Asphalt
- Floor Tile & Mastic
- Fire Curtains
- Breaching Insulation
- Vinyl Floor Tile
- Elevator Equipment Panels
- Ductwork
- Flexible Fabric Connections
- Caulk/Putty
- Cooling Towers
- Floor Backing/Adhesives
- Pipe Insulation
- Vinyl Wall Coverings
- Decorative Plaster Spackling

This information is intended to provide guidance regarding the Arkansas Asbestos Abatement Regulation (Regulation 21) and how Regulation 21 applies to practice fire burns. This is not intended as a substitute for Regulation 21. You may review Regulation 21 on the DEQ website.

**Contact the Asbestos section for questions prior to practice fire burns at:**

**asbestosubmission  
@adeq.state.ar.us**

**501.682.0718**