



INTRODUCING: Simple Asbestos Management

This summer, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) introduces “Simple Asbestos Management” (SAM), a website designed as an easy, simple way for school administrators to learn about their responsibilities related to asbestos management.

It’s a **one-stop online resource** for safety and compliance information: www.SAMforTexas.org. With SAM, schools can:

- **Access resources** to manage asbestos on your campus
- **Promote the safety** of students, teachers and staff
- **Ensure compliance** with state and federal asbestos regulations

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally-occurring mineral that is resistant to temperature, fire, sound, and corrosion. Because of its durability, it has been used as a building material in shingles, tiles, ceilings and insulation. From the 1940s to 1970s, asbestos was commonly used in schools.

Why is asbestos dangerous?

Asbestos fibers are too small to be seen with the naked eye (up to 700 times smaller than human hair) and, when disturbed, can be inhaled by children and adults, piercing lung tissue. Asbestos has been linked to serious health issues, and children are particularly vulnerable to asbestos.

Asbestos in Schools

According to a 2005 report from Texas A&M University, more than half of the 11,384 school buildings in Texas were built prior to 1978. Since peak asbestos usage occurred through the late 1970s, older schools are very likely to contain asbestos.

Your Responsibility as a School Administrator

Use SAM’s resources to stay informed about safety and *your* compliance duties as part of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA):

- Create asbestos management plans for each campus
- Obtain inspections by a state-licensed asbestos professional
- Notify parents, teachers and employees about the availability of the management plan
- Provide staff training to educate employees about asbestos management and safety

Get Started Now: Access resources, tools and more information at www.SAMforTexas.org.

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