

# Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

## Guidance for Handling/Clean Up of Potential Asbestos Containing Materials

### Asbestos Related Clean Ups and Demolitions

Buildings damaged or destroyed by the severe weather events such as hurricanes and tornados may contain asbestos materials. Some of these buildings may need to be demolished and the resulting debris cleaned up. The demolition and/or removal of debris from certain structures may be subject to the conditions of the federal asbestos NESHAP requirements. These requirements have been developed to prevent the exposure to potentially harmful asbestos fibers. The federal asbestos regulations are contained in 40 CFR Sections 61.140 through 61.160. Also, certain OSHA regulations on asbestos may also be applicable. In addition, MDEQ offers the following guidance for damaged and destroyed structures suspected to contain asbestos.

### Residential Structures

1. For an individual residence being demolished or cleaned-up by the homeowner, none of the asbestos NESHAP requirements apply. However, since asbestos is a known carcinogen, homeowners should protect themselves to the extent possible against the inhalation of asbestos fibers caused from the demolition and handling of structures containing materials such as asbestos-containing floor tile, transite siding, and insulation products. MDEQ recommends that you obtain and review materials on handling asbestos. Some of these materials are located at the following website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/ashome.html#4>  
By sufficiently wetting these materials and keeping them wet during all demolition and handling activities, the homeowner can reduce the possibility of creating a fiber release episode. In addition, such materials should not be crushed, pulverized, abraded, grinded or sawed.
2. Residential structures and debris containing asbestos should not be burned.
3. For additional information on asbestos containing materials from residential structures, contact the MDEQ Asbestos Division at 601-961-5171.

### Commercial, Nonresidential and Multi Dwelling Residential Structures

If a building or structure being demolished or otherwise cleaned-up in response to the recent severe weather events is suspected to have asbestos-containing materials and that structure is a commercial or business structure, a non-residential building/structure or a residential building with five or more dwelling units, clean-up parties should contact the MDEQ Asbestos Division at 601-961-5171 for further guidance on managing asbestos containing materials. These types of facilities are likely regulated under the Federal NESHAPs requirements and would be subject to special clean-up, monitoring and signage requirements. Under no circumstances are these structures or the debris to be burned.