

# Asbestos



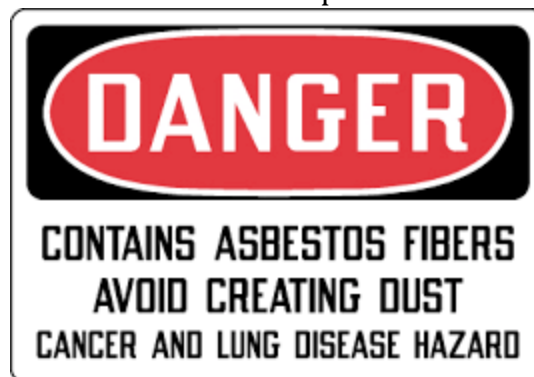
## Toolbox Talk #1

### Hazards of Asbestos

Asbestos is difficult to see with just the naked eye which makes us more at risk to it. Furthermore, breathing in asbestos can cause a buildup of asbestosis in the lungs which leads to deterioration of lung functions. Exposure to asbestos can lead to multiple abnormalities such as; lung cancer, mesothelioma, and most importantly death. People most commonly exposed to asbestos tend to work in the construction industry, ship repair, or any job that includes renovations or demolitions.

### How to Reduce Hazards of Asbestos?

- There are specific OSHA standards set to protect employees from asbestos in all industries.
- Companies and organizations are required by law to provide personal exposure assessment of the risk and hazards associated with exposure to asbestos with that specific job duty.
- There are laws set to determine the highest possible airborne levels of asbestos that someone could be required to work in. These are called Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL). Although there are no safe levels of exposure to asbestos, there are levels that lead to more serious harm.
- Where exposure exists, employers are required to protect workers by declaring regulated areas, controlling job duties in those areas, provide relevant protective equipment and implementing engineering controls to limit airborne levels as much as possible.



### Key Things to Remember When Working with Asbestos

- \* Always wear protective mask and other equipment
- \* Wash clothes immediately when finished working
- \* Shower or rinse at the job site
- \* Always be aware!