



Superintendent John Steach

1130 S Ivy • Canby • OR • 97013 • 503-266-7861 • www.canby.k12.or.us

September 1, 2011

To: Canby Staff Members
Employee Associations
Parent-Teacher Association Presidents

From: John Steach, Superintendent

Re: Asbestos Hazard Management 2011-2012

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The law requires all schools, K-12, to be inspected for building materials containing asbestos.

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building built before the late 1970's contain at least some asbestos in pipe insulation and structural fireproofing. We, too, have buildings that contain asbestos materials. The primary concern arises when these materials begin to deteriorate or become damaged.

Canby School District contracted with Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services to bring our schools into compliance with the AHERA regulations. Hall-Kimbrell is the nation's largest and most experienced environmental engineering and analytical testing firm specializing in asbestos.

The objectives of our contract with the consulting firm were to:

1. Sample, analyze, and quantify asbestos-containing materials in our schools;
2. Determine any potential for exposure of building occupants to asbestos fibers;
3. Provide recommendations for corrective actions;
4. Establish priority levels for abatement activities; and
5. Provide estimates for removal and replacement of asbestos-containing materials.

Our schools were inspected in accordance with the regulations by an EPA-accredited Hall-Kimbrell inspector. Samples of the suspect materials were taken and analyzed at the firm's EPA-accredited laboratory. Based upon those findings, a Management Plan was written which outlines our intent to control and abate any asbestos-containing materials. The Management Plan has been submitted to the governor's office as required by law. A copy of the Management Plan is on file for your review in the Central Service Business Office at 1130 S. Ivy Street, Canby, Oregon.

The Management Plan includes an Operations and Maintenance Program developed for our schools. This program is the primary foundation by which we will control exposure to any asbestos-containing materials through a systematic schedule of monitoring, employee training, record keeping, and periodic re-inspection. Our maintenance and custodial personnel are receiving special training to qualify them to conduct their routine activities around asbestos, to handle accidental releases of asbestos fibers if the materials become damaged, and to monitor the condition of the materials.

Concentrations of asbestos fibers in buildings are generally lower (10,000 times) than those levels reported in asbestos industry work places which have been linked to disease among workers. Evidence suggests that the mere presence of asbestos in a building does not necessarily pose a hazard. Research indicates that unless asbestos is distributed, allowing fibers to become entrained into the air, the potential health consequences appear to be negligible. However, our concern is to control the potential for asbestos to be disturbed in our schools, releasing fibers into the air. Therefore, if the material is in a state that requires its removal or containment, that will be done. If the material is in controllable form, it will be systematically controlled until the phased plan calls for abatement.

Even though the Canby School District inspection indicated no areas needing immediate attention, the District has initiated surveillance, monitoring, and abatement procedures. APEX environmental has completed our required three-year re-inspection. The district also completed a small-scale abatement at Ninety One Elementary in order to replace a HVAC boiler in the middle building as well as removed hard fittings on control valves as part of a HVAC controls up grade in the upper building.

A public School Board meeting is scheduled on September 15, 2011. The content of this letter will be reviewed at that meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please make a special effort to attend the meeting.