

Asbestos

1 year on

13 June 2018

- Rotorua Lakes High School has closed its science laboratories amid nationwide fears gauze mats used with Bunsen burners at schools may be contaminated with a rare form of asbestos.
- More than 113 schools across the country that have been supplied the mats since April 2016 have been asked to dispose of them and the product, originally from China, is being recalled.

Sept 12 2018

A warehouse at the Ballance Agri-Nutrients site in Tauranga has been locked down after high levels of asbestos were detected.

The quarry company, Lee Processors, is alleged to have dispatched the rock without having an asbestos management plan in place.

WorkSafe has shut the quarry down and also placed prohibition notices on a storage shed at Ballance's site, where 80 tonnes of the asbestos-tainted rock remains.



Sept 30 2018

Emergency staff say the public should avoid the centre of Waipu due to a risk of asbestos.

A fire on Sunday morning at the Waipu Café and Deli has created a risk of asbestos for residents in the centre of the Northland town.

Daniel Nicholson, a shift manager at Fire and Emergency, warned the public to stay away.

"The priority this morning is warning everyone that there is a possible risk of asbestos, and everyone to remain indoors and avoid the smoke, closing all their windows," he said.



Oct 26 2018

Demolition workers worried after company exposes them to asbestos twice

The construction company that demolished a fire-damaged dairy failed to protect its workers against airborne asbestos, WorkSafe says.

Crafar Crouch Construction has admitted pulling down two buildings in Blenheim without proper protection against asbestos, as required by law, in 2016.

WorkSafe New Zealand made inquiries after a photograph of workers at On the Spot dairy on Budge St was published in *The Marlborough Express*, showing them without personal protective equipment (PPE).

Asbestos was airborne at the site, beside a playground, a park and a bus stop, and travelled as far as the footpath, WorkSafe's tests revealed.









August 2018, One month after the Trump administration signalled it would consider approving “new uses” of asbestos in the US, imports of the cancer-causing mineral skyrocketed, increasing by 2,000% between July and August.

Convictions

John Carstairs Robertson

Date of offence: 12 February 2011 Decision: Convicted

Final decision date: 14 May 2018

Fine imposed: \$35,000 Available fine 300,000

Safety lessons learned:

1. To measure the total area of the material to be removed;
1. To have treated the cladding as asbestos containing material until tested and confirmed not to be asbestos containing material;
2. To have prepared an asbestos removal plan;
3. To have ensured that the asbestos containing material wasn't unnecessarily broken to minimise the risk of asbestos fibres being released;
4. To have sprayed the interior surface of the ACM with a PVA solution;
5. To have ensured that decontamination facilities were available;
6. To have engaged an independent competent person to carry out a clearance inspection; and
7. To have provided health monitoring.

What's happening

- Few convictions- so far
- Enforceable Undertakings
- Removalists one stop shop
 - third party independence
 - clearances
- AMP's are being written
- Management is a slow burn



1.What is an asbestos management plan?

2.An asbestos management plan sets out where any identified asbestos or asbestos containing material is and how it will be managed.

3.An asbestos management plan must include information about:

- – where your identified asbestos is located – in what wall, window etc
- – how you plan to manage the asbestos risks if any exist (eg remove it, encapsulate it with a false wall or paint, leave it alone as it is in good condition, etc)
- what procedures you will follow for when work is to be undertaken that may disturb the asbestos or asbestos containing material
- how you will record incidents or emergencies involving asbestos
- a timetable for managing asbestos exposure risks (eg priorities and dates for removal, reviews, circumstances and activities that could affect the timing of action) – which should be reviewed in six months, or after an incident or emergency
- procedures, including a timetable for reviewing and, if necessary, revising the asbestos management plan and asbestos management documentation (note at a minimum this MUST be every five years)



AMP's for residential property:

- As a residential landlord you are the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) for your rental property. You may also need to rely on other PCBUs – such as property managers and building contractors – to coordinate, collaborate and cooperate when they share overlapping duties with you.
- Under HSWA you have a duty to identify asbestos and prepare an asbestos management plan for work involving a risk of exposure to respirable asbestos fibres.



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