



UCCS SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

3. SAFE HANDLING OF ASBESTOS

(For assistance, please contact [Environmental Health & Safety](#))

[Asbestos](#)¹ is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is used in many applications for its fire resistance, noise insulation and electrical insulation properties. Common uses prior to the mid-1970's included building products such as pipe insulation, acoustical soundproofing, house insulation, fireproofing, house siding, floor coverings, roofing materials, and heating and cooling systems.

There are two general forms of asbestos, friable and non-friable.

- **Friable asbestos** can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry and is the most dangerous form.
- **Non-friable asbestos** cannot easily be pulverized or reduced to a powder. Non-friable asbestos that is damaged to the extent that it can be crumbled or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry must be handled and packaged like friable asbestos wastes.
 - Resilient floor tile, sheet vinyl flooring, roof felts, asphalt tiles, asphalts, mastics, and transite roofing shingles, siding, and pipe are considered non-friable forms of asbestos, unless they are or will be damaged during demolition or renovation activities.

Asbestos is regulated under the authority of multiple statutes. Because inhalation of asbestos fibers may cause cancer, **inhalation of asbestos fibers and dust must be avoided**. The most important rule in handling, transporting, or disposing of asbestos is to do so in a way that prevents airborne release of fibers or dust.

UCCS has conducted numerous and extensive surveys of campus buildings and property to identify locations where asbestos may be installed or used. *Essentially all asbestos in public areas has been remediated*, with minimal use in other locations (primarily in older campus buildings).

The [Facilities Department](#) has trained asbestos inspectors and certified asbestos abatement workers, who work in conjunction with [EH&S](#) to remove and dispose of asbestos in a safe manner. Asbestos removal projects, when required, are conducted in accordance with regulations to minimize potential exposure to faculty, staff, students, and the public. Asbestos waste is handled and disposed as hazardous waste.

Questions related to asbestos should be directed to [EH&S](#).

¹ Information taken from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division "Asbestos" <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/categories/services-and-information/environment/asbestos>

Last reviewed by Cynthia Norton on December 9, 2015.