For more information on AHERA, visit EPA's Asbestos in Schools website.

What schools need to know

TODAY'S LESSON: ASBESTOS

For more information, visit the NHDES Asbestos in Schools Program, or contact the program coordinator at asbestos@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4555.
AHERA
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

The purpose of AHERA is to ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) safely manage asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) found in schools, to ensure students, faculty and the public are not exposed to asbestos. The regulation requires LEAs to designate and train an individual to ensure AHERA requirements are implemented properly.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOLS

- Appoint and train a “designated person” to ensure proper implementation of the AHERA requirements.
- Ensure inspections, reinspections, surveillances, management plans, O&M programs and response actions are in compliance with all of AHERA requirements.
- Train maintenance and custodial workers (Two-Hour Awareness, additional 14 hours O&M for staff that disturb ACBM less than three square feet or three linear feet).
- Ensure the Asbestos Management Plan is available for inspection.
- Ensure that students, legal guardians and school staff are notified at least annually about the availability of the Asbestos Management Plan for review.
- Ensure that short-term workers are provided the locations of ACBM so they can avoid contact and disturbance of asbestos.
- Ensure that warning labels are properly posted.

SCHOOL RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

- A copy of prior inspection and/or reinspection reports.
- Documentation related to the training provided to custodial and maintenance employees.
- Periodic surveillance forms.
- Dated statements regarding operation and maintenance activities.
- A copy of all reports on response actions taken.
- Copies of the updated Asbestos Management Plan in each school and at the LEA office.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

NHDES is committed to providing assistance to LEAs to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. While voluntary compliance is preferred, LEAs that fail to comply with existing regulatory requirements are subject to enforcement action.