

Asbestos detection, handling and management, cases and examples



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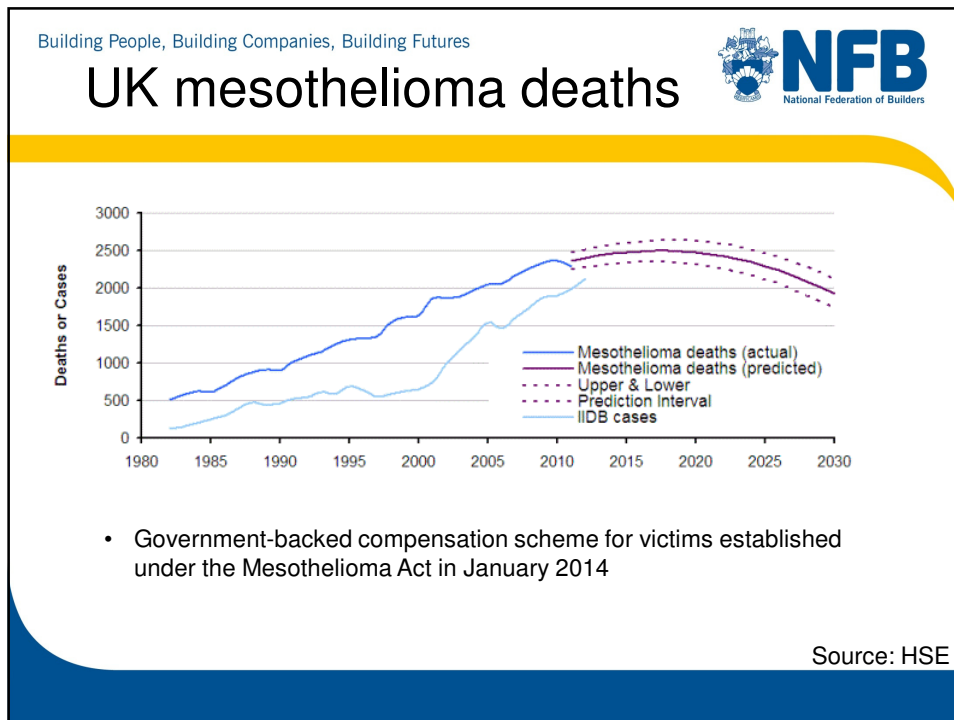
Asbestos Awareness

Presentation for people liable to disturb asbestos while carrying out their normal everyday work

Situation in the UK



- The United Kingdom possesses the second highest rate of mesothelioma incidence in the world after the USA
- 2,291 deaths in 2011 (latest HSE statistics)
- Men who worked in the building industry when asbestos was used extensively are now among those most at risk of mesothelioma



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Health Risks: Summary

The risk of disease is determined by:

- The concentration of fibres people are exposed to
- The time and frequency over which they are exposed
- It can take years from the initial exposure to asbestos fibres for diseases to develop
- The diseases cause breathing difficulties and can result in death
- Smoking multiplies the risk of developing lung cancer in people exposed to asbestos fibres

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Asbestos Locations

Asbestos lagging on pipe



Loose asbestos used as loft insulation



Brown asbestos lagging on in poor condition on steam pipe

Source: HSE

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Asbestos Locations

Asbestos insulation board



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Asbestos Locations

- Asbestos papers, felts and cardboard
- Asbestos textiles
- Asbestos gaskets, washers and strings
- Asbestos cement sheets/tiles for roofing and cladding
- Moulded asbestos cement products
- Decorative textured coatings
- Flooring products — PVC or vinyl tiles
- Asbestos reinforced plastic/resin composites
- Bitumen products
- Friction products

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Asbestos Locations

Asbestos rope seal on a
drying oven



Asbestos textiles



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Asbestos Locations



Asbestos cement roof and wall cladding



Asbestos cement



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Asbestos Locations

- Metal asbestos composites
- Wall jointing tapes and fillers
- Domestic appliances and products
- Industrial sites, factories and plant
- Some machinery may incorporate asbestos — clutches, brake pads, drive belts and conveyor belts
- Power stations, chemical plants, factories and warehouses may contain substantial amounts of asbestos

Preventing asbestos fibre release



Preventing exposure to asbestos fibres:

- do not assume there is no asbestos before work is started
- check the asbestos register in a building to identify if asbestos is present before working on any materials
- if asbestos is in the material to be disturbed, work should not begin
- if in doubt, check first

Emergency Procedure



If asbestos materials are disturbed or release of fibres is suspected:

- Work should be stopped immediately
- The area should be evacuated
- Any contaminated clothing should be removed and bagged as close as possible to the contamination source
- People should be prevented from entering the area and it should be secured
- Contact the supervisor
- It should be confirmed if asbestos fibres are present
- The area should be vacated until it has been deemed safe to re-enter

Summary

- Asbestos is the biggest single cause of occupational disease: it kills around 4,000 people per year
- Asbestos cannot be simply identified by the naked eye
- Building infrastructure and maintenance workers are most at risk of exposure to asbestos
- The main diseases can kill or severely restrict breathing
- It can take many years after the initial exposure before symptoms develop
- If in doubt, do not start work

Questions



Get in touch!

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