



What is Asbestos?

According to OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. It was used in building materials and vehicle products for its strength and ability to resist heat and corrosion before its dangerous health effects were discovered."

What are the Potential Health Effects Related to Asbestos?

Asbestos is a known human carcinogen and can cause chronic lung disease as well as lung and other cancers. Symptoms and/or cancer may take many years to develop following exposure.

Where Can I Find More Information on Asbestos?

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3507.pdf>

What Should I Do if I Think I Have Been Exposed to Asbestos?

If you think an exposure has occurred, immediately notify your supervisor so steps can be taken to investigate and secure the area.

Do I Need to File a Workers' Compensation Claim?

1. City employees concerned about exposure are encouraged to file a workers' compensation claim by following your department's process for filing a claim.
2. The City's Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator will pay for diagnostic testing that documents there is not a disease that was caused by this exposure.
3. Since asbestos exposure has not caused damage or harm to your body that can be medically diagnosed you will receive official paperwork from York Risk Services that states your claim is denied.
4. A Workers' Compensation claim is accepted when there is a medical diagnosis of injury or disease caused by the work you do for the City.
5. You may contact or visit the Division of Workers' Compensation to ask these questions.
<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/employee/index.html>

What if I Contract an Asbestos Related Disease Many Years From Now?

Workers' Compensation does not provide any medical benefits unless there is a diagnosed compensable work-related illness. Filing a claim documents when and how this exposure occurred if you should, in your life time, be diagnosed with a disease that may be caused by this exposure.

This incident report will be on file in future years should you be diagnosed with an asbestos related disease. Contact the City to find out the procedures for filing a Workers' Compensation claim after diagnosis.

Am I Eligible for Annual Testing/Exams?

No. OSHA requires an employer to institute a medical surveillance program for all employees who are or will be exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos **at or above the** Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter of air in an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA). During the Aviation renovations and subsequent cleaning, employees were not exposed at or above OSHA PEL. See brochure for more information on medical surveillance programs. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3507.pdf>

What if My Family has Been Exposed to Asbestos?

The risk of asbestos exposure to a family member is associated with heavily exposed asbestos workers who do not change their soiled clothing prior to leaving their work environment. City employees that are concerned that a family member has been exposed to asbestos due to this event can take their family members to a physician of their choice at their own expense and can access any available health care benefits. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/asbestos/asbestos-fact-sheet>