



Connelly Act notice of asbestos-containing materials

The [California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 10.4, Section 25915](#), known as the Connelly Act, requires that building occupants be notified of the existence of asbestos-containing material for buildings constructed before 1979.

Asbestos is a natural mineral composed of many thin fibers. Before 1979, asbestos was commonly used in building materials because of its insulation, sound-absorbent and fire-retardant qualities. Asbestos is safe when bonded to other materials with binding agents, such as glue and mastics. When ACM is intact, the material presents minimal health risks. Bonded or “non-friable” asbestos fibers are sturdy but may become loose due to cutting, grinding or drilling during remodeling, demolition or other building maintenance operations. ACM can also be categorized as “friable” — easily crumbled or powdery. Asbestos can be released if friable ACM is disturbed.

The Los Angeles Herald Examiner Building underwent extensive remodeling and asbestos abatement. Almost all known ACM within the building was removed during remodeling. However, small quantities of “non-friable” ACM remain. In addition, small amounts of friable asbestos have been enclosed to bind the ACM and reduce the potential for disturbance. Intact, sealed and undisturbed ACM is not a health hazard.

Analysis of air samples collected at various locations in 2019 indicated that airborne asbestos fiber levels were below the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s](#) recommended re-occupancy level of 0.010 fibers per cubic centimeter. Specific building locations known to contain ACM are described below. The locations were identified in an Aug. 17, 2020, report prepared by a firm specializing in asbestos surveillance.

Floor	Location	Type of material
Basement	Room 004, former boiler room	Boiler insulation debris — enclosed
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First floor	Historic elevator No. 1	Floor tile and mastic
First floor	Historic elevator No. 2	Floor tile mastic
Fourth floor	Shaft behind historic elevator No. 1	Transite pipe

Asbestos is not a health threat unless friable asbestos fibers become airborne due to damage or disturbance. The primary route of entry for asbestos fibers is inhalation or ingestion. Significant and long-term exposure to asbestos from activities that disturb ACM can lead to various respiratory diseases, including asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

There is a low risk of exposure to students, faculty, staff and visitors at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner Building. However, to further reduce risk, all employees should follow these basic guidelines:

- Avoid disturbing ACM, especially during maintenance work.
- Do not break, drill or remove floor tiles.

[Email ASU Environmental Health and Safety](#) or call 480-965-1823 for questions or more information.