

handout

THE HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS

Friable (loose and crumbly) asbestos is very hazardous.

Inhaling asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer and other serious illnesses.

✓ **Remember these safety rules for working around asbestos:**

- ▶ Always check for asbestos warning labels and signs and take the necessary precautions.
- ▶ If you're not sure if something contains asbestos, ASK!
- ▶ Never cut, hammer, or otherwise damage asbestos-containing materials.
- ▶ Use ventilation systems, enclosures, wet processes, and other protections to prevent release of asbestos fibers.
- ▶ Wear respirators and other required PPE.
- ▶ Never wear your contaminated clothing outside the work area.
- ▶ Make sure you don't contaminate clean areas or street clothing with asbestos.
- ▶ Treat any dust or waste that could contain asbestos carefully. Wet it when possible and use a HEPA vacuum to clean it up.
- ▶ Dispose of asbestos-contaminated clothing and waste in proper labeled, sealed containers.
- ▶ Don't smoke if you work around asbestos—better yet, don't smoke at all!
- ▶ Cooperate with air monitoring and medical surveillance programs. They're designed to protect you.

