Notice to all CSU East Bay Employees at the Hayward and Concord Campuses

DATE: February 1, 2016
TO: All Employees
FROM: Donna Placzek, Director
Environmental Health & Safety
SUBJECT: Asbestos Notification

Each year all CSUEB employees, must be notified of the presence of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in campus buildings pursuant to the requirements of the California Health and Safety Code Section 25915. The University continues to survey locations for the presence of asbestos-containing material as the need arises. Asbestos fibers are commonly found in thermal system insulation, fireproofing and fire doors, roofing materials, floor tiles, laboratory bench tops, spray-on acoustic, drywall taping compound, insulation, mastics, and various other materials.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency has established a designation for presumed asbestos-containing materials (PACM). All floor tile, mastic, thermal system insulation and surfacing materials in buildings constructed prior to 1981 are presumed to contain asbestos unless sampling and analysis demonstrates otherwise.

Asbestos fibers are only a health hazard if they become airborne in sufficient numbers. Since asbestos is only a hazard if airborne, it is important for employees to follow proper work practices to minimize the potential for disturbing any PACM and potentially releasing asbestos fibers into the air. In particular, avoid disturbing asbestos materials in walls, ceilings, pipes or equipment. Do not break, drill, cut or remove anything that may be considered PACM. If you have any questions about identifying a material as PACM, contact EH&S before you disturb the material(s).

If you observe any asbestos materials that have been damaged, report the condition immediately to your supervisor or EH&S (x5-2395). Do not disturb damaged asbestos debris or materials. Only persons who have been trained and certified are authorized to perform work that may disturb asbestos fibers.

Department heads and supervisors are required to ensure all employees (including student assistants and contract employees) under their supervision and direction know about this notification, why it is being sent, potential health hazards associated with asbestos fiber releases, how to prevent disturbing asbestos containing materials, prohibited practices, and the places where asbestos containing building materials are located in their work area(s).

Asbestos survey data showing specific locations known to contain asbestos is located at this link on the CSUEB EHS website: EHS Website - Asbestos.

If you have any questions regarding asbestos on campus, please contact Donna Placzek at x5-2395 or donna.placzek@csueastbay.edu.