



Portland Warehouse Fire Asbestos Debris Safety Tips

May 18, 2017 Update

What's happening now?

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are surveying, collecting and removing asbestos-containing debris blown from the May 14 warehouse fire at 1300 North River Street in Portland. Our crews continue to look for and collect debris from the fire that has spread to neighboring communities in parts of the Pearl District and downtown Portland. Crews are also surveying other areas to determine how far the debris may have blown.

If you have questions or if you see any asbestos debris please call: 503-229-6488

If you have health questions please call: 971-673-0442

Do not touch, pick up, move or vacuum any debris that may have come from the fire. The asbestos-containing debris will look like ash or paper, and crumbles into fibers easily.

- Do not sweep, vacuum or otherwise disturb debris because this could release more of the asbestos fibers into the air and increase your risk of exposure.
- If you have already cleaned up or vacuumed the debris, you should carefully place any debris and the vacuum bag into a plastic bag, tie the bag closed, and call us at: 503-229-6488.
- Try not to track the debris into your home – take shoes off when you come inside, wash your pet's feet when they come in from outside and wash children's hands often.
- Until more information is known about the levels of asbestos in the air, and as the weather gets dry and warm over the next few days, keeping windows and doors closed could help minimize the chance of any asbestos fibers blowing into your home.
- DEQ and EPA are sampling the air to determine if the levels of asbestos in the air pose a risk to you or your family's health.

If you find any of this debris, do not touch it and please call 503-229-6488 and leave a message with:

- Your name and phone number
- The address or location where you saw the debris
- Where the debris is located on your property or other location
- Describe what the debris looks like (*see attached photo/asbestos identification key*)

We will contact you with more information. You may see our crews in your area wearing protective gear or 'moon suits' to protect themselves from prolonged exposure to the asbestos while they look for debris and clean it up.

How could asbestos affect my health?

When asbestos-containing materials break down, asbestos fibers or particles can be released. The fibers are very small and thin and cannot be seen without a microscope. Breathing high concentrations of these fibers or particles over a long time can cause asbestos-related disease. Disease symptoms do not usually appear until 10 to 40 years after the first exposure to asbestos. Most people inhale some asbestos over the course of their lives, and in most cases this does not lead to any health problems. For people who may have been exposed to debris containing asbestos from the warehouse fire, the most important action is to prevent continued exposure by taking the precautions described above.



Location: Public sidewalk outside 1310 NW Natio Parkway. 6" x 6"



Location: Gravel parking lot adjacent to Amtrak Station. 12" x 18"



Location: Gravel parking lot adjacent to Amtrak Station. 12" x 12"



Location: Landscaped area at 1310 NW Natio Parkway. 6" x 8"