ASBESTOS EMERGENCY CLEANUPS

The federal asbestos program focuses on protecting the public from exposure to airborne contaminants, such as asbestos, during the demolition and renovation of industrial, institutional, commercial and residential buildings containing more than four units or are part of a larger project.

REQUIREMENTS

DEP’s Emergency Final Order provides the notification requirements for emergency renovations and demolitions in accordance with the Asbestos NESHAP regulations.

For emergency demolitions of buildings that have been determined to be structurally unsound and in danger of imminent collapse by a state or local government official, a thorough inspection is not required and the notification with the signed demolition order from the state or local government needs to be submitted one day prior to the demolition to your local asbestos air program. This written notification should be submitted to your local licensed asbestos program.

For emergency renovations, the asbestos notification needs to be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than the next working day following the day the emergency renovation begins. The notification needs to include the following information:

• Date and the hour the emergency occurred;
• A description of the sudden, unexpected event; and
• An explanation of how the event caused an unsafe condition.

If not part of a larger project, residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units and single-family homes are excluded from these notification requirements. Cleanup of building debris that is not part of a standing structure does not require a notification.

RESTRICTIONS

An Emergency Final Order from DEP does not waive any requirements related to the handling or proper transportation of asbestos-containing materials. Asbestos-containing materials can only be disposed of in a Class I or Class III landfill in accordance with Rule 62-701.520(3), Florida Administrative Code. The burning of asbestos-containing materials is prohibited.

QUESTIONS

If you have question regarding this guidance please contact the Department’s Asbestos Coordinator at 850-717-9000 or visit the DEP’s Asbestos Frequently Asked Questions. If you have questions regarding the cleanup of asbestos-containing material, please contact your Local Licensed Asbestos Inspector before starting renovation or demolition activities.

For additional information and best practices on the cleanup of debris that is not part of an existing structure, please see DEP’s Post-Storm Asbestos Guidance on Building Debris Cleanups.