# PUBLIC NOTICE

**When is Asbestos a Problem?**

Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems.

The potential for an asbestos containing material to release fibers depends primarily on its condition. If the material, when dry can be crumbled by hand pressure – a condition known as "friable" – it is more likely to release fibers, particularly when damaged. The fluffy spray-applied asbestos fireproofing material is generally considered "friable". Pipe and boiler insulation materials can also be "friable" , but they often are enclosed in a protective casing that prevents fiber release unless the casing is damaged. Some materials that are "friable", such as vinyl asbestos floor tile, can also release fibers when sanded, sawed, or otherwise disturbed.

**Government Action**

The federal government has been regulating asbestos for a number of years. On October 22, 1986, President Reagan signed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act into law. The act required EPA to develop regulations creating a comprehensive framework for dealing with asbestos in public and nonprofit private elementary and secondary schools. The regulations were published on October 30, 1987.

The AHERA schools rule requires all public school districts and private schools, known as local education agencies or LEAs, to inspect all school buildings for both friable and non-friable asbestos, to develop plans to manage asbestos in schools, and to carry out the plans in a timely fashion. The rule also provides an opportunity for parents, teachers, and other school employees to become familiar with and involved in their school's asbestos management program.

**School District Responsibility**

Under the AHERA schools rule, each local education agency (LEA) must take the following actions:

1. Designate and train persons to oversee asbestos-related activities in the school system. In the Blue Springs School District, Tom Gaines, a certified asbestos inspector/management planner, has been assigned this responsibility. Any questions you may have regarding asbestos may be directed to him at the Administrative Service Center at 816-224-1300.
2. Inspect every school building for friable and non-friable asbestos-containing building materials by an accredited inspector. KBE Consultants, Inc., an independent, accredited company, performed the required reinsertions during the summer of 1988.
3. Prepare a management plan for managing asbestos and controlling exposure in each school. In the Blue Springs School District, KBE Consultants, Inc. prepared the asbestos management plan and a copy of that plan is available in the principal's office of each school building and in the office of the Director of Buildings and Grounds at 1801 NW Vesper.
4. Implement appropriate response actions to protect health and environment. In the Blue Springs School District, friable asbestos was removed from Hansel Lowe School, Thomas Ultican Elementary, the Georgeff-Baker Freshman Center, the Liberal Arts Building and the Civic Center in 1985. At the time of the KBE Consultants reinspection in June of 1988, small quantities of asbestos were found remaining in the Hansel Lowe School, Thomas Ultican Elementary, Franklin Smith

Elementary, and the Georgeff-Baker Freshman Center Stadium dressing area. This last remaining friable asbestos was removed by Asbestos Abatement Service, Inc. during August of 1988. To the best of our knowledge, all friable asbestos has now been identified and removed from all Blue Springs schools. Some small quantities of non-friable asbestos containing building materials such as transite board, wall board joint compound, floor tiles and materials do remain at the Ashton and Georgeff-Baker Freshman Center campuses, Thomas Ultican Elementary, Franklin Smith Elementary, William Yates Elementary, Hansel Lowe School, and the Parents as Teachers building at 2009 Ashton. This low risk material will be managed by semiannual AHERA accredited inspection. Custodial and maintenance staff are aware that these materials are not to be drilled, sanded, or otherwise damaged.

5. Notify the public about asbestos inspections and the availability of the asbestos management plan for review. The Blue Springs School District will annually update the public through publication of this type and inform the public that copies of the asbestos management plan are available for review at the building principal's office or at the district Administrative Service Center, Office of the Director of Buildings and Grounds at 1801 NW Vesper.
6. Conduct periodic surveillance and reinspection. This will be an ongoing task for all school districts.
7. Assure proper training and awareness. Custodial and maintenance personnel who work in buildings with asbestos-containing building materials are provided appropriate awareness training to insure that they do not demage such materials. Shore term workers or contractors are also provided this information.
8. Maintain record of asbestos-related activities and make them available to the public. All asbestos-related activities are noted in the management plan as they occur and are available to the public for review.

**Three Year Reinspection**

As required by law, the Blue Springs School District has been reinspected for asbestos every three (3) years since 1988.

**In Review**

As a parent, teacher, service worker or other school employee, the most important thing that you can do first is learn about your school's asbestos activities. As you do so, remember that the mere presence of asbestos in a school does not mean that the health of the occupants is endangered. Again, asbestos that is managed properly and maintained in good condition poses relatively little risk. Federal regulations do not require the removal of all friable asbestos from schools until the building is demolished. However, the Blue Springs Board of Education has consistently acted to provide the safest possible environment for the students and staff of the Blue Springs School District by removing all known friable asbestos from its schools as it was discovered. What non-friable asbestos-containing building materials that still remain are included in an ongoing management plan that EPA experts believe to be the preferred method of dealing with the material.