

DR-1971-AL

Asbestos and Lead Guidance for Demolition

This is to summarize the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM) Memorandum 'Special Asbestos National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Guidance for Natural Disasters' dated May 6, 2011.

These procedures should be followed in regards to asbestos and lead handling during structural demolition activities. These procedures are only applicable as a result of a natural disaster.

- No testing required on residential structures if the demolition contractors use the "wet and go" method. Examples of the "wet and go" method include using two-inch fire hoses to spray a heavy mist. There are no requirements to capture or contain the run-off from the wetting process.
- All regulatory requirements must be met for public or commercial structures to be demolished that are significantly intact and safe to enter.
- There are no regulatory requirements for damaged public or commercial buildings to be demolished if they are significantly damaged and not safe to enter. **They must be kept wet during demolition.**
- If no testing is done, all demolished structures (residential, public and commercial) will use the "wet and go" method.
- Provided that all the materials are sufficiently wetted and workers are properly protected, the collection and handling of the materials by accredited asbestos workers and certified asbestos abatement companies is optional. Workers that are not accredited will need adequate supervision and personal protection equipment. An accredited asbestos inspection team would be better in any situation, but their capabilities would vary according the scope of debris removal, demolition activities, work schedules and sites.
- An "asbestos specialist" is not required unless he is in charge of a team searching for asbestos containing materials (ACM) in debris, etc.. An "asbestos specialist" is not required to be with contracting teams providing that adequate wetting is done during scooping and loading demolition materials, and the workers are protected with at least a half-face cartridge respirator.
- If the contractors determine that wetting interferes too much, then an "asbestos specialist" team should inspect the site before scooping begins and the air should be sampled during the operation.
- **Trucks carrying demolition debris must be tarped, the more secure the better. All demolition materials must be taken to an approved State landfill.**
- A notification form is not required if a structure (residential, public or commercial) is unsafe to enter and is going to be demolished as the result of a natural disaster only. In ordinary times, a notification is always required for a demolition whether ACM is present or not.