

Naturally Occurring Asbestos Information

FAQ

1. What is Naturally Occurring Asbestos?

Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) is defined as any of several natural minerals that

Several references discuss the definition and occurrence of NOA:

U.S. Geological Survey - "Some Facts About Asbestos"

(<http://pubs.usgs.gov/factsheet/fs012-01/>)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - "EPA's Asbestos Home Page"

(<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/asbestos/>)

U.S. Geological Survey - "Asbestos - Statistics and Information"

(<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/asbestos/>)

Asbestos Fact Sheet – California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/toxic_contaminants/Asbes_F.html

2. Is it a problem in Alaska?

Yes, naturally occurring asbestos is present in Alaska and has been encountered in DOT&PF project areas. Some of the DOT&PF experience with NOA is detailed in “*Naturally Occurring Asbestos in Alaska and Experiences and Policy of Other State Regarding its Use*”; Perkins, Robert A., P.E., Hargesheimer, John, P.E. and Winterfeld, Aaron, CHMM; for Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, 2009.

3. What is DOT&PF do about NOA?

For those situations where NOA is encountered on project sites, DOT&PF is creating guidance and procedures in accordance with state and federal law.

- DOT&PF is providing this informational web site, which is publically accessible to aid Department staff and others to develop project-specific and material-specific, management plans that identify a project’s specific characteristics and risks and appropriate responses or actions.
- We are preparing guidance documents for addressing the NOA issue in our planning, design and construction process. Numerous sections of several agencies must be involved in this process, so it is unknown when the guidance will be substantially completed.
- The Department will determine, on a project specific basis, the best methods for managing naturally-occurring asbestos earth materials (NOA) for material extraction, transport, placement, and long-term use and maintenance. This will be outlined in project specific plans, similar to project specific reports (standard to the building industry) for asbestos containment in buildings.

4. How do we design projects where NOA occurs?

5. What must we do during construction of roads, airports and other transportation projects when NOA is present?

