

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Asbestos Exposure

During construction, a drainpipe became dislodged and obstructed the removal of shoring supporting the roof structure. A contractor began cutting the pipe but stopped when they suspected it contained asbestos.

The contractor immediately reported the hazard to the supervisor, who halted the work, secured the scene, and sent the worker to the showers for decontamination.

A review of the hazardous materials assessment confirmed the pipe material contained asbestos. WorkSafeBC and an asbestos mitigation contractor were contacted.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- **Complete hazardous materials assessments:** Ensure they are included in project safety plans and shared with all workers involved.
- **Review assessments periodically:** Do this as part of project planning, at milestones, or when the scope of work changes.
- **Supervisor response:** Supervisors should observe conditions and support pre-work hazard assessment processes when obstacles or upset conditions are reported.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Before the mid-90s, asbestos-containing construction materials were widely used.

When these materials are suspected, a hazardous materials assessment **MUST** be completed.

Communicating the findings of this assessment **BEFORE** starting work is essential to ensure worker safety.

Only certified abatement contractors should handle and remove asbestos-containing materials.

