



Post-Wildfire Recovery Naturally Occurring Asbestos in Butte County Rock and Soils

Purpose: This guidance is directed to residents, contractors and others performing digging, grading and excavation activities in areas of Butte County that are known to have or suspected of having Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) in the soils or underlying rock so that they can be aware of health protective and regulatory requirements when performing those activities. The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) implements the requirements of State's Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for NOA. This guidance does not cover regulations for asbestos in construction materials and demolition activities, which are managed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), contact email: asbestos@arb.ca.gov.

What is NOA? Asbestos is a naturally occurring fiber which is commonly found in ultramafic rock. The asbestos fibers are released into the air when they are broken or crushed through man-made or natural processes. Asbestos has been identified by the State as a toxic air contaminant. Inhalation (breathing) is the main route of exposure and may cause lung cancer or cause other health hazards which may not become apparent until after many years.

How can I tell if my property may include NOA? The District website (<https://bcaqmd.org/>) has a map developed by a local geologist that indicate generally where NOA is found in Butte County. (A more detailed .kml file (for Google Earth or other geospatial software) may be requested.) This does not mean that someone may have imported material containing NOA onto your property. If you are concerned that you may have asbestos-containing rock or soils around your home, you may want to consider contacting a registered geologist to examine the property.

ATCM requirements: The ATCM requires notification and dust mitigation measures for work in NOA areas. The NOA ATCM includes an exemption for homeowners and tenants working on their own property for lot sizes one acre and less to relieve them of the requirement to have a NOA dust mitigation plan and from notifying the District. Anyone working on parcels greater than 1 acre in size are not exempt. Contractors are not exempt when they perform work on property of any size. **The District recommends that, even if they are exempt, homeowners and tenants who chose to perform work on their own properties protect themselves and others by following the asbestos dust mitigation measures below.**

Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan Requirements: The following dust mitigation measures are required during any construction or grading activities subject to this ATCM:

- Construction vehicle speeds at the work site must be fifteen (15) miles per hour or less;
- Prior to any ground disturbance and during work activities, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent visible dust from crossing the property line;
- Storage piles must be kept adequately wetted, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile;
- Equipment must be washed down before moving from the property onto a paved public road; and,
- Visible track-out on the paved public road must be cleaned using wet sweeping or a HEPA filter equipped vacuum device within twenty-four (24) hours.

District Rules regarding Fugitive Dust: Compliance with District regulations regarding fugitive dust (District Rule 205), is required for all construction activities, regardless of property size. Rule 205 prohibits visible dust from crossing the property line and prohibits track-out from an active operation to extend twenty-five (25) feet or more or to remain after the conclusion of "each workday or evening shift". Best available control measures, such as pre-watering and adequate wetting of storage piles, is also required. For more information on Rule 205 can be found here: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/drdb/but/curhtml/r205.pdf>.

Additional Websites/Information: For regulations, information, educational material, advisories and fact sheets regarding NOA, please call the District office at (530) 332-9400 or see the following:

- CARB Asbestos website: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/asbestos/geninfo.htm>.
- Construction/ Grading/Quarrying NOA ATCM: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/atcm/asb2atcm.htm>.
- Sale/Use/Application/Transport NOA Materials ATCM: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/atcm/asbeatcm.htm>.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos website: <https://www.epa.gov/asbestos>.
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos/>.