



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## **South Coast AQMD offers free training for schools to protect communities from asbestos exposure**

**DIAMOND BAR**--The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) will offer free training sessions for school district personnel at its headquarters in Diamond Bar, Calif. The trainings are part of the agency's ongoing efforts to ensure renovation and demolition projects comply with regulations that protect children, school officials and the public from harmful exposure to asbestos.

"School buildings may contain asbestos in insulation, dry wall, siding, roofing, ceiling tiles, adhesives, chalkboards, and other building materials," said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD's Executive Officer. "When our guidelines for handling asbestos-containing materials are not followed, it can pose a significant health risk to students, parents, teachers and other school staff."

The two training sessions will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup> and will focus on best work practices for surveying, removal, handling and disposal of asbestos. Registration is free for all school district personnel and school staff in the South Coast Air Basin, but advance registration is required.

South Coast AQMD's Rule 1403 – *Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities* is designed to limit public exposure to asbestos that can occur during demolition and renovation activities, such as at schools, businesses and apartment complexes. When asbestos-containing materials are disturbed and improperly handled, tiny asbestos fibers can become airborne and reach deep within the lungs and may irritate and scar lung tissue or cause other respiratory diseases such as lung cancer.

Rule 1403 requires a certified person to conduct and document a survey of any suspect asbestos-containing materials. Contractors must notify South Coast AQMD of work prior to activities taking place, and must follow procedures for removal and clean-up of asbestos-containing materials, such as proper enclosure, disposal of materials, and adequate wetting.

Schools and school districts are responsible for following all requirements of Rule 1403, and may be subject to violations and potential penalties.

For more information on Rule 1403, including details on selecting properly trained asbestos abatement contractors as well as more information on current or future training sessions,

please call South Coast AQMD's Asbestos Hotline at (909) 396-2336, or visit:  
[www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/compliance/asbestos-demolition-removal](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/compliance/asbestos-demolition-removal).

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

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