



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CLEANUP

## **Cleanup Action, Burley Demolition Asbestos Site Burley, Cassia County, Idaho**

### **Why is EPA cleaning up this site?**

On January 30, 2018, a fire burned two adjacent buildings in downtown Burley, Idaho. In mid-February the two buildings were demolished. EPA is cleaning up this site because the building debris contains asbestos and EPA has determined that the site currently poses a risk to people and the environment.

### **What is asbestos?**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. It was used in many building materials and vehicle products for its strength and ability to resist heat and corrosion before its dangerous health effects were discovered.

If you have questions about the cleanup, call EPA at 206-553-1263. If you have health questions about asbestos exposure, call your doctor or the South-Central Idaho Public Health District 208-737-5900 (dial 3 for Environmental Health)

### **How could asbestos affect my health?**

When asbestos-containing materials are disturbed or break down, asbestos fibers or particles can be released into the air. The fibers are very small and thin and cannot be seen without a microscope. Asbestos fibers can then be inhaled without knowing and trapped in the lungs. If swallowed, they can become embedded into the digestive tract as well. Asbestos is a known human carcinogen and can cause chronic lung disease as well as lung and other cancers. Disease symptoms may take many years to develop after an exposure to asbestos. Most people inhale some asbestos over the course of their lives, and in most cases, this does not lead to any health problems.

### **What is Happening at the Site?**

- EPA will use heavy equipment to remove contaminated material from the site.
- Certified Asbestos Workers will be used in the handling of material.
- Contaminated material will be transported to an acceptable disposal facility that is permitted to handle asbestos contaminated material.
- The work area will be marked with caution tape and signs. You should avoid entering these areas.

During the cleanup work, we will spray water to keep the materials damp and we may also use a substance called a tackifier which will keep the asbestos fibers stuck in the debris to prevent them from becoming airborne during the cleanup process. We'll also place air monitors on the workers and near the work site to ensure asbestos contaminated dust isn't posing a threat to the community. We expect the work to take up to four weeks to complete.

Find more information about asbestos at EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/asbestos> or the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry: <https://go.usa.gov/xUev7>.