

**FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
Office of Facilities, Operations, and Construction Management**

**June 16, 2003**

**TO:** All Employees, Occupants, Vendors, & Contractors  
Of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District

**FROM:** John Schulze  
Executive Director of Facilities, Operations  
& Construction Management

**RE:** Notice of Asbestos Containing Building Materials.

When the Foothill and De Anza campuses were constructed, Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM) were used in some areas. After a thorough investigation and testing program, we have discovered that the most common uses of asbestos in the buildings were in pipe insulation, floor tiles, and ceilings.

The ACBM has been inspected and is currently in a stable condition; however, any remodeling, which may take place, will be done in conjunction with proper asbestos abatement methods.

Contrary to widely held public perceptions; the presence of asbestos containing materials has rarely been found to pose a significant risk to building occupants. In fact, a consensus appears to be developing among scientists and public policymakers that removal of ACBM, particularly those in good condition, is not the action most protective of health, since removal often heightens risk of exposure to asbestos fibers.

According to the United States Environmental Protection agency (EPA), "The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of the building occupants is necessarily endangered. As long as ACBM remains in good condition and is not disturbed, exposure is unlikely. When building repair, maintenance, renovation, or other activities disturb ACBM, or if it is damaged, asbestos fibers are released, creating a potential hazard to building occupants. Although not required to do so by federal law, the prudent building owner will take steps to limit building occupants' exposure to airborne asbestos."

The district is taking the most aggressive approach possible in or ongoing responsibility to protect the health of our employees.

Recognizing that, when all is said and done, people may still need a person to talk to. I have designated a member of my staff – Dave Paulsen – to help with any individual questions or concerns you may have. Dave can be reached on the Foothill campus at extension 6122. We especially ask that you call him before you make any ceiling or wall penetration to hang things or install equipment. He can then help you to prevent the disturbance of ACBM if present.

I realize this has been a long memorandum, and I appreciate your reading it through. However, this is such an important issue that I felt it deserved thorough treatment. Please expect more information to follow on this subject.