TRU Asbestos Management

1. **PURPOSE**

1.1. To describe the process and management of asbestos containing materials on the Thompson Rivers University Campus's

2. **SCOPE**

2.1. These procedures apply to all TRU staff. TRU aims to maintain a safe and healthy environment by containing and correcting any situations involving asbestos that caused or could likely cause and injury or illness.

3. **PRECAUTIONS**

POTENTIAL HEALTH & SAFETY HAZARDS

HAZARD		TO PROTECT YOURSELF
EXPOSURE		Understand the chemical(s) you are working in the vicinity of. Consult the MSDS and wear the appropriate PPE.

4. Asbestos Information

Thompson Rivers University was built in the late 60's and early 1970's when asbestos was a commonly used building material. Asbestos gained wide use because it was plentiful, readily available and low in cost. Unique properties of asbestos are: fire resistance, high tensile strength, poor heat and electrical conductivity and impervious to chemical attack. Later in the 1970's extensive research revealed that inhalation of friable asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis and mesothelioma in workers exposed to asbestos. It was found that the fibres would be inhaled by the workers and settle into the lining of the lungs causing scarring called Pleural Plaques, over time these plaques developed into lung cancer.

By 1990, Canadian regulatory agencies banned the use of asbestos and asbestos containing building materials and thereby required employers to implement asbestos regulations.

Fibrous asbestos materials have been used for many years as sprayed coatings, fire protection substances, heat and/or sound insulation products, and asbestos cement pipe products. When these items are in good condition and not disturbed, they do not present a health hazard, however their location must be determined and identified.

5. Asbestos Containing Materials on Campus

Asbestos containing materials (ACM) on campus are primarily found in:

- Cement-textured coatings on ceilings
- Textured coating on concrete and cinder block walls
- Vinyl floor tiles
- Cores of fire doors
- Building and underground piping systems

- Insulation on pipes, pipe elbows and boilers
- Drywall joint compounds
- Window caulking
- Acoustic ceiling tiles
- Vermiculite insulation
- Asbestos board backing radiators
- Fume hood linings and ductwork

6. Asbestos Exposure Control Plan

As a part of the TRU asbestos management program the development of an exposure control plan has been put together to ensure:

- Proper protocols are followed
- Workers are not exposed
- Any affected parties working within the space are not exposed
- That all asbestos containing materials are disposed of as to Work Safe BC regulations.

7. General Restrictions

No TRU employee/student shall knowingly cut, drill or in any way alter the condition of suspected or confirmed material containing asbestos without specific training in safe work procedures relating to the handling of this potential health hazard.

8. Reporting Procedures

In those instances where employees/students encounter products suspected of containing asbestos, the following procedure shall be complied with:

1. Immediately leave the area and notify their supervisor
2. Contact TRU Safety or Facilities Services Manager with details of the disturbance; such as location and estimated amount of suspected ACM
3. Restrict access to the area until appropriate personnel respond

9. Sampling – General Precautions

Collection of samples from materials suspected of containing asbestos must be done in accordance with recognized acceptable procedures and by a qualified person who is thoroughly trained in asbestos handling in order to avoid unnecessary exposure to asbestos fibres.

10. Renovations and Removal of Asbestos Projects

To prevent accidental disturbance of ACM, TRU Safety must be contacted before carrying out any work to ensure that the area does not contain asbestos. Renovations in areas where ACM is known to be present must have all asbestos abated **prior** to initiating renovations.

If work is required to be conducted in an area where there may be a potential disturbance of asbestos the project coordinator must:

- Ensure asbestos work has been authorized by TRU Safety
- Complete a ***TRU Asbestos work permit*** and submit all required documentation
- Notify affected building occupants
- Follow proper protocols required by Work Safe BC Regulations.

11. Facilities Supervisors Responsibilities

Supervisors must ensure that all personnel under their direction have taken training in asbestos identification and have been made aware of the possible presence of asbestos.

12. Annual Asbestos Surveys

TRU will undertake annual surveys by a qualified person to check on the condition of all known asbestos. All conditions of asbestos will be recorded in the asbestos inventory and documented. Damaged ACM will be prioritized for immediate removal. All work involving asbestos is done in accordance with regulatory requirements by trained TRU workers or certified asbestos abatement contractors.

13. Asbestos Labelling

Thompson Rivers University will ensure that all asbestos–containing materials present on campus are identified by signs or labels or when these are not practicable, other effective means.

Asbestos on campus in its present condition poses no health threat to anyone as long as it is no disturbed (i.e. drilled into, cut, sanded etc.

14. Asbestos Contact Numbers

Department	Phone #
Asbestos Control Coordinator	(250) 828-5139 or (250) 320-9252
TRU Safety& Emergency Management	(250) 828-5139 or (250) 371-5805
TRU Facilities Help Desk	(250) 828-5388

15. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Revision #	Date	Change (include section #)	Issued By
1	11.28.2013	NEW	OHS Safety Officer
2	09/08/2015	Revised	OHS Safety Officer