

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
Best Practices for the Use of  
Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA)

Excavation, Grading or Utility Work at Construction Projects

- Wet road surfaces with water using trucks, hoses, or sprinklers<sup>1</sup>
- Pre-wet the ground to the depth of anticipated cuts<sup>1</sup>
- Apply water prior to any land clearing<sup>1</sup>
- Implement measures to ensure that material being excavated, crushed, screened, loaded, transferred or conveyed does not result in any dust that is visible crossing the property line<sup>1</sup>
- Control for disturbed surfaces areas and storage piles that will remain inactive for more than seven (7) days, which should include one or more of the following:
  - wet piles of excavated material
  - application of chemical dust suppressants or chemical stabilizers according to the manufacturers' recommendations
  - cover them with tarps, plastic sheeting, or vegetative cover
  - installation of wind barriers of fifty (50) percent porosity around three (3) sides of a storage pile
  - installation of wind barriers across open areas<sup>1</sup>
- Continuously mist the work area<sup>1</sup>
- Suspend grading operations when wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the property line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures<sup>1</sup>
- Install wind barriers around the work area<sup>1</sup>
- Clean or decontaminate equipment and vehicles to ensure that no equipment or workers track soil out of the work area; track out prevention measure may include:
  - a gravel pad
  - tire shaker
  - wheel wash system may be used to clear soil from vehicles
  - Pavement extending for not less than fifty (50) consecutive feet from the intersection with the paved public road<sup>1</sup>
- Visible track-out must be cleaned using wet sweeping within twenty-four (24) hours<sup>1</sup>
- Wet the work area using a spray system attached directly to rock cutting or drilling equipment, such as a fine-mist sprayer or a variable-rate fogger nozzle (similar to those used in firefighting)<sup>2</sup>
- Excavate utility trenches to an adequate depth and backfill them with clean soil so that future repair work will not need excavation into potential NOA-containing materials<sup>3</sup>
- When transporting NOA-containing materials, avoid overloading trucks; keep the material below the top of each truck compartment and cover material with a tarp<sup>4</sup>
- Limit personnel and vehicle access to the work area<sup>5</sup>
- Identify NOA-containing areas with signs<sup>2</sup>
- Limit vehicle speeds on the site to fifteen (15) miles per hour or less<sup>1</sup>
- Reduce drilling or excavating speeds<sup>6</sup>
- Excavate during periods of calm or low winds<sup>1</sup>
- Clearly delineate the regulated area with barrier tape imprinted with appropriate warning labels<sup>6</sup>
- Post construction stabilization of disturbed areas:
  - establishment of a vegetative cover
  - placement of at least three (3.0) inches of non-asbestos containing material
  - paving<sup>1</sup>

Roads and Parking Areas (unpaved and gravel roads)

- Cover roads with non-NOA-containing rock, chemical sealants or dust suppressants, chip seals, limestone aggregate, petroleum sealants, or asphalt cement paving<sup>1, 7, 8</sup>
- Separate NOA containing rock and non-NOA containing rock with geotextile<sup>12</sup>
- Wet road surfaces with water<sup>1</sup>
- Install windbreaks or berms<sup>1</sup>
- Reduce driving speed<sup>1</sup>
- Avoid dusty areas, especially in windy conditions<sup>1</sup>

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## **List of Acronyms**

ARB Air Resources Board  
ATCM Airborne Toxic Control Measure  
DTSC Department of Toxic Substances Control  
ICs institutional controls  
NOA naturally occurring asbestos  
USGS U.S. Geological Survey

[http://www.epa.gov/superfund/health/contaminants/asbestos/pdfs/noa\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/health/contaminants/asbestos/pdfs/noa_factsheet.pdf)