



## ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

St. Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority



Environmental Education (EE) Module



## SLSWMA MISSION



*"To enhance St. Lucia's environmental integrity and the health of her people through the provision of an integrated system for the collection, treatment, recycling and disposal of solid and hazardous waste"*



## WHAT IS ASBESTOS



- Asbestos is a naturally occurring silicate mineral consisting of magnesium, calcium and iron. It is composed of strong fibres, which are either silky in texture with curly fibres or straight with needle like fibres.



## TARGET AUDIENCE



- Construction Workers
- Domestic, Commercial, Industrial occupiers of buildings containing asbestos

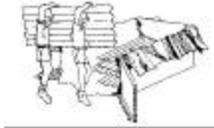




## ASBESTOS IMPACTS



- Environmental
- Health
- Socio-Economic



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



- General industry employees may be exposed to asbestos during the manufacture of asbestos-containing products or when performing brake and clutch repairs. Heaviest exposures occur in the construction industry, particularly during the removal of asbestos, during renovation and demolition. Employees are also likely to be exposed during the manufacture of asbestos products (such as textiles, friction products, insulation, and other building materials). Employees in the maritime environment also may be exposed when renovating or demolishing ships constructed with asbestos-containing materials.



## HEALTH IMPACTS



- When asbestos is processed into manufactured products, very small fibres are created. It is these invisible fibres that are dangerous when inhaled.
- Once inhaled the fibres can cause asbestos-related diseases such as:
  - Mesothelioma
  - Asbestosis
  - Asbestos-related lung cancer
  - Pleural plaques



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS



- Asbestos was popular because it had several beneficial properties - it is not combustible, has high tensile strength, has good thermal and electrical insulating properties, is moderately resistant to chemicals, and has good frictional properties. It is durable, flexible, strong and resistant to wear. This unique combination of properties makes asbestos an extremely useful material that has for many decades been established as a major component of lightweight reinforced cement products and friction materials.



## SLSWMA POLICY



1. Always use a mask to protect against asbestos
2. Always thoroughly wet the material you are working with to reduce dust
3. Do not use high-speed power tools—they create a high level of dust
4. Don't allow any family members or other people near the area when you are working
5. Wear old clothes. When you have finished work put clothes into a rubbish bag and seal it. Don't allow anyone else to touch the clothes. Shower thoroughly immediately after finishing work
6. Never sweep up. Always use a vacuum cleaner which has an internal sealed and removable bag



## SLSWMA POLICY



- Put the vacuum bag carefully into a rubbish bag and seal it
- Put any discarded material in a strong rubbish bag and seal it. Then remove your mask and seal it in a rubbish bag
- Never put the rubbish bags in your garbage bin and do not take them to the tip
- Broken sheeting and associated wastes should be placed directly into disposal bins that have been lined with polyethylene sheets or placed in heavy duty (0.2mm) thick polyethylene plastic bags. The bags should be no larger than 1200mm by 900mm. Bins and bags should be sealed for removal. To make handling and sealing easier, bags should only be partially filled.



## GOSL POLICY



- SLSWMA ACT
- Waste M'gnt Act (Impending)
- Public Health Act

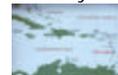


## REGIONAL POLICY



Principle # 10 of the St. Georges Declaration

“Measures will be taken to prevent, reduce and control waste generation and disposal as well as pollution of land, rivers, sea and the air. The people of the region will always strive to harmonize their approaches to waste management, and recycle waste products”





## REGIONAL POLICY



### SIDS PROGRAM OF ACTION

“Identifies management of wastes among a broad series of requirements for achieving sustainable development in small island developing states”



## INTERNATIONAL POLICY



- MARPOL 73/78
- The Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes & Other Matter : London Convention
- Convention on the Protection & Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean region: Cartagena Convention



## INSTITUTIONAL GOALS



- To identify asbestos containing buildings island wide
- To collaborate with private & public sectors entities to replace asbestos material in buildings island wide



## INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



- Ministry of Physical Development, Housing & Environment
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Labour





## STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITY



- Generally industries working with asbestos-containing materials often can tell by looking at it, whether or not the material contains asbestos. However, for most of us, the only way to identify asbestos is to have a sample of the suspect material analysed by a laboratory.



## STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITY



### ■ Taking a sample:

- It is important that you don't release fibres into the air or on yourself when taking a sample
- Spray the material with a fine mist of water first
- Double seal your sample in a sealed plastic bag or container
- Clean up any material spilled on the outside of the container or on the floor using a damp paper towel
- Label the container with an identification number and indicate when and where you took the sample
- If you suspect asbestos in several different places or in a large surface area, take several samples to ensure accuracy



Care for the Environment !

