



**SHINE Program
Superfund Health Investigation & Education
North Ridge Estates Public Health Consultation (PHC)
Summary Fact Sheet- April 2003**

The Oregon SHINE Program evaluated the public health significance of friable asbestos-containing materials (ACM) at the North Ridge Estates subdivision north of Klamath Falls. The people that may be affected by the asbestos are primarily the families that live there and workers at the site.

SHINE concluded that exposure to asbestos from the demolished buildings of the former Marine Recuperational Barracks poses a past and present public health hazard. Physical hazards at the site are a public health hazard as well.

The EPA has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos. People are mainly exposed to asbestos through breathing in microscopic fibers in the air. The more fibers a person is exposed to, the greater the risk of developing an asbestos-related health condition. Asbestos is known to cause cancer and other health effects, and smoking acts with asbestos to increase the risk of lung cancer.

A copy of the Public Health Consultation (PHC) can be accessed at <http://www.healthoregon.org/superfund> or at the Klamath Falls Public Library, 126 S. 3rd Street. Comments on the PHC are requested and are due by June 16, 2003; please see the website for where to direct comments. A public meeting will be held in Klamath Falls on Tuesday, May 8th from 6-8 PM at the Oregon State Extension Office at 3328 Vandenberg Road. This meeting will give people a chance to talk to SHINE staff about health concerns and hear more about the health consultation report. EPA and DEQ staff will also be available at the meeting to provide an update on site cleanup plans.

What can I do to reduce my family's health risks from exposure to asbestos?

- If you are a smoker, stop smoking
- Get health checkups from a doctor experienced with asbestos related disease
- Ask your doctor for advice on receiving vaccines against flu and pneumonia
- Get prompt attention from your doctor for any respiratory illness
- Learn about how to reduce exposure to asbestos inside your home, in your yard, and in areas near disposal sites. (See SHINE website or contact SHINE for more information)

What does the PHC report say?

Due to the known health risks from exposure to friable (brittle or crumbling) asbestos, and due to the volume and extent of site coverage of friable ACM fragments on the site now and in the past, North Ridge Estates is considered a **past and present public health hazard**.

Existing and potential physical hazards at the site are also considered a **public health hazard**

Additional information is needed to evaluate health risks at the site. SHINE recommends:

- Sample soil for asbestos and lead
- Outdoor and indoor air monitoring
- Identify the locations and extent of contamination (ACM fragments, disposal sites, soil, and underground piping)
- Address physical hazards at the site, such as filling holes and removing rebar

For more information, please call staff from the SHINE Program:

Janice Panichello, Program Coordinator
503-731-4025, extension 229
janice.d.panichello@state.or.us

Amanda Guay, Public Health Educator
503-731-4025, extension 318
amanda.m.guay@state.or.us

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