

## Guidance – Building Fires/Fire Debris Management

Updated February 17, 2022

When Structures are lost to accidental fires or arson, there is no opportunity to remove hazardous materials prior to the burn. The remaining debris and ash could contain a variety of hazardous substances including asbestos-containing materials.

The asbestos rules for South Dakota are found in the Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) and training requirements for asbestos personnel are found in ARSD and South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL). All institutional, commercial, public and industrial structures, installations and buildings are regulated. Residential buildings, including condominiums or individual dwelling units operated as residential cooperatives, with more than four dwelling units are also regulated.

To comply with these rules and laws, and to protect workers, the public, and the environment, responsible parties shall comply with the following requirements:

- Keep ash and debris wet to prevent windblown material from leaving the site.
  - Keeping the debris wet is required until a certified asbestos inspector can determine if regulated asbestos containing material (RACM) is present.
- Contact a certified asbestos inspector to determine if RACM is present in the debris.
  - If regulated asbestos-containing material is present and can safely be removed from the debris, certified asbestos-abatement personnel must be hired to remove and properly dispose of the RACM prior to removal and disposal of the remaining debris. A list of companies with certified asbestos personnel can be found at the following link:  
<https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/Asbestos/docs/AsbestosServices.pdf>
  - If RACM can not be safely removed, or due to the condition of the building it can not be determined whether RACM is present, the entire debris pile must be treated as RACM, and kept wet until disposed at a municipal solid waste landfill permitted to accept RACM.
- Prior to removal of RACM or demolition and disposal of the remaining structure, the responsible party must submit a notification to DANR. The notification form can be found at the following link:  
<https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/Asbestos/docs/E0413V6-AsbestosNotification.pdf>

Once RACM is removed from the debris pile, the remainder of the debris must be transported and disposed at a permitted municipal solid waste landfill. A map showing the locations of municipal solid waste landfills can be found at this link:

<https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/SolidWaste/Landfills.aspx>

Buildings which are not regulated by the asbestos rules include residential structures containing four or fewer dwelling units unless the structure is being intentionally burned for a legitimate fire training exercise. These buildings would not be required to comply with the asbestos rules but would still be required to comply with the DANR solid waste rules. Debris generated from a fire of a residential structure containing four or fewer dwelling units will be required to be disposed at a municipal solid waste landfill. A map showing the locations of municipal solid waste landfills can be found at this link:

<https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/SolidWaste/Landfills.aspx>.

For further assistance, please contact the DANR Waste Management Program at 605-773-3153.