CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE RESURGAM
Reviewed for Code Compliance
Inspections Division
Approved with Conditions
Date: 07/23/15

Demolitions and Asbestos

1) Overview

In Maine, building demolitions happen on a regular basis. Many of the demolitions occur in older buildings that are likely to contain some asbestos products, particularly in or on heating (HVAC), wall, floor, and ceiling systems. These demolition projects may be happening without the proper protection of employees, the general public, and the environment. It is important to remember that state and federal laws require that owners have buildings inspected and have any asbestos products properly removed prior to demolition. The Maine DEP is forwarding this information to municipal officials in an effort to increase awareness of and compliance with applicable rules, resulting in less asbestos exposure to the general public, demolition site personnel, and environment.

2) What Can Municipalities Do To Help?

Municipalities can greatly assist the people of Maine and the Department by joining with the DEP and the US EPA to ensure that asbestos is properly managed during demolitions. ***Specifically, municipalities can hand out appropriate information, issue demolition permits only to persons, who can demonstrate that they will properly handle the asbestos, and mail or fax the building demolition (BDF) report form to the Department.***

The following check-off list can be used.

A) _____ Provided "Asbestos Fact Sheet" to Applicant
B) _____ Had applicant fill out "Building Demolition Form" (BDF)
C) _____ Did not issue Demolition Permit to Applicant not answering "Yes" to three questions on BDF Form (OPTIONAL BUT SUGGESTED)
D) _____ Municipality faxed (or Mailed) BDF Form to DEP at 287-7826

3) What Are The Rules?

Simply stated state and federal asbestos rules and regulations require that buildings be inspected for asbestos products and have them removed prior to demolition. The inspection and removal operations must be performed by DEP-licensed companies under regulated and controlled conditions.

4) Using the Building Demolition Report Form

The purpose of this form is to ensure that an applicant has the correct information to properly remove asbestos from a building prior to demolition. The form has two parts which need to be filled out by the applicant. The first section of the form is the Pre-Demolition Building Inspection.

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Maine Department of Environmental Protection