



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, asbestos is a naturally occurring, fibrous mineral that has been used in thousands of products because of their unique properties including resistance to thermal, chemical, and electrical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials during renovation and demolition activities can cause microscopic asbestos fibers to become airborne, which places individuals at an increased risk of disease; and

WHEREAS, inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious and life-threatening illnesses including lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis; symptoms can include shortness of breath, severe cough, and chest pain which may not appear for 20 or more years after exposure, making early diagnosis difficult; and

WHEREAS, at least 10,000 Americans die each year from asbestos-related diseases; in North Carolina approximately 500 people are diagnosed with one of these diseases with an estimated 125 fatalities each year; and

WHEREAS, asbestos continues to remain legal in approximately 70% of products worldwide and has not been completely banned or removed; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Health Hazards Control Unit has developed educational information to protect the public, which includes guidance on awareness, testing, identification, remediation and proper management of building materials that may contain asbestos; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of asbestos in the home and work environments is important so that parents, school administrators, childcare operators, employers, contractors, property managers and others can work together to prevent exposure; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Health Hazards Control Unit is leading efforts to educate the public about the dangers of asbestos exposure and promote the use of North Carolina accredited asbestos professionals to safely mitigate and remove asbestos-containing materials during renovation and demolition activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 1-7 2020, as "ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirty-first day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.