

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 13, 2004

Mr. Bob Walker  
El Dorado Union High School District  
via e-mail

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for contacting us regarding the concerns of the Oak Ridge High School community about asbestos at the school.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants to assure students, parents, and staff of Oak Ridge High School that the risk associated with asbestos on school grounds should be minimal as long as exposed soil outdoors is wet and indoor areas are wet mopped and wiped to remove soil. Currently, the school grounds are wet from the recent rains. These conditions prevent asbestos fibers in the soil from becoming airborne, where they are a potential threat to human health through inhalation. However, any soil tracked into the school buildings must be cleaned up quickly, before it dries out. Once the rains stop, the EPA recommends that school staff wet down exposed areas regularly until the school can implement a long-term remedy.

EPA officials are currently discussing the appropriate next steps with school officials and county and state environmental officials. Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Don Hodge  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
415-972-3240  
hodge.don@epa.gov

cc: Dan Suter, On-Scene Coordinator, Emergency Response Branch, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA Region 9  
Daniel Meer, Chief, Response, Planning, and Assessment Branch, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA Region 9  
Dan Stralka, Environmental Scientist, Technical Support Team, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA Region 9  
Lisa Fasano, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Planning and Public Affairs, U.S. EPA Region 9  
Leo Kay, Chief, Public Affairs Section, Office of Planning and Public Affairs, U.S. EPA Region 9