**H&S Protocols – as at 7/08/2017**

The following outlines some guidelines to assist WDC staff, volunteers, public, contractors, and agencies. (Note: this information is not intended to be a comprehensive list of hazards or processes that may be needed or required to be undertaken).

1. **Procedure for any possible faecal or effluent contamination of silt that may have occurred following the breach of the College Rd stopbank at Edgecumbe.**
2. On the 25th April 2017, the Medical Officer of Health advised:

*“All flood waters would have been contaminated with faecal matter, from farm animals and farm effluent systems, as well as wild animals and birds, and in some areas also from overwhelmed individual onsite effluent treatment systems and council operated sewerage systems.  The actual concentration of harmful microbes would have been reduced by the significant volume of flood waters, and the level of most of the microbes will continue to reduce as the silt and soil dries out.  Ultraviolet light from natural sunlight will reduce the risk from bugs even further.*

*So long as people take practical precautions such as wearing enclosed footwear (shoes or boots, NOT jandals or bare feet), avoid undue creation of dust, and wash hands frequently, the risk of contracting an illness from the remaining level of microbial contamination will be low and close to pre-flood background levels, remembering that our environment is far from sterile on a good day.*

*Significant chemical contamination of the environment associated with the floods is highly unlikely and any risk to the public negligible.  Again, no specific precautions are required beyond those practical measures mentioned above.”*

1. In addition, the Recovery Office has advised that for those persons that are removing bulk silt from properties, they should wear appropriate clothing such as disposable overalls, gloves and masks as a precaution only.
2. Any remaining silt on gardens or lawns remaining can be raked over and avoid creating dust where possible.
3. **Possible Asbestos on site**
4. If the house is undergoing asbestos testing or removal, then please follow all the instructions of the asbestos remover

(it may be that house or site access will not be allowed until asbestos has been cleared appropriately – please see your builder or insurance agent)

1. If non-friable asbestos (asbestos that under ordinary circumstances cannot easily be crumbled) is found on site then please follow the “WDC Recovery Office - General Asbestos Handling and Removal Procedure – On properties (outside of houses) guideline”, attached.
2. **House Property is a Work Site**
3. Please note that your property, if being rebuilt, will be considered a work site. The builder will normally be the primary contractor responsible for the site and is required to ensure the safety of those entering and/or working on the site.
4. Please note that some areas will be hazardous as a building site and that you should follow the directions and instructions of the builder.
5. Please ensure that all visitors, children, and family are aware of the safety requirements so as to ensure they remain safe.



**General Asbestos Handling and Removal Procedure – On properties (outside of houses)**

The following outlines a general guideline process to assist in managing potential non-friable asbestos that may be found in gardens, lawns, or areas outside of houses, including fences. Current Edgecumbe township silt testing shows that there is generally a very low level of risk on sites (outside of homes). However, all sites should be continually monitored and any work stopped if issues or concerns arise.

**Notes:**

* For more comprehensive information or advice regarding the safe management of asbestos please go to: <http://www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/guidance-by-hazard-type/asbestos/working-with-asbestos/asbestos>
* The following procedure **does not apply** to any house stripping or building work that may require specific asbestos management.
* This following procedure **does not apply** to specific requirements that house insurers, builders, or EQC may impose
* This procedure may be subject to change at any time – currently valid as at 4 July 2017

**Procedure**

1. ***General***
* Maintain good hygiene (wash hands and clothes regularly)
* If any site becomes dusty, then water it down to keep any dust to a minimum
1. ***Site assessment***
* Visually assess the area of work for potential asbestos (most likely to find general broken fragments of various sizes, and if in doubt then treat fragments as if they were asbestos)
* If asbestos is friable, or over 10m2 in area in total to be removed from a site, then this requires a certified specialist to be engaged. Stop work and remove yourself from site.
* If there is under 10 square metres of non-friable asbestos containing material, anyone competent can handle and arrange disposal, BUT they must wear the right PPE.
* Monitor the site in case asbestos is found during work
1. ***PPE required for handling non-friable asbestos***
* P2 mask

***Hint***: Ensure the mask fits well, and PPE is carefully disposed of and treated as contaminated and placed in bags as below as and when required.

* Disposable overalls
* Disposable gloves
1. ***Bagging***
* Place asbestos in 200 micron thick plastic labelled bags. The bag must be labelled “ASBESTOS”.
1. ***Collection/Disposal***
* Appropriately packaged material can be delivered to Waste Management Technical Services at 31 Gateway Drive, Whakatāne. They have limited opening hours as the team are often out and about, but they are open Mon and Thu from 7.30 to 4.30 **The charge is approx. $1.20 per kg**

***Hint:*** Ring 0275264239 to check they are open to receive packaged asbestos

* Waste Management can pick bags up from site. Current charges are approx. $110 per hour.

**Hint*:*** If you choose to request this, it makes sense to collect as much as possible prior to arranging pick-up.