

## Working in the vicinity of Asbestos:ACM's

# SAFETY ALERT

It is unlikely that you will **regularly** encounter asbestos or **asbestos containing materials** (ACMs), when laying gas mains and services in the highway, or in customers properties, and in instances where it is encountered e.g. asbestos water mains, old asbestos gas mains, asbestos cement BT ducting etc., it is unlikely to be a hazard as it will normally be intact.

Where a suspected material is found to be damaged, broken or flaking, work **must STOP**, the area fenced to prohibit unauthorized access and your FLM contacted who will contact the S&I Dept who will arrange for a ground sample to be sent to a UKAS laboratory.

**Asbestos'** means any of the following minerals:

- Crocidolite (often referred to as blue asbestos)
- Amosite (often referred to as brown asbestos)
- Chrysotile (often referred to as white asbestos)
- Fibrous actinolite, Fibrous anthophyllite, Fibrous tremolite
- Any mixture containing any of the above minerals



It is important to note that whilst there remains a hierarchy of risk involving these materials, **no type of asbestos should be considered safe to work with.**

### Steps YOU must Take

**Step 1** – Before works consult plans within the site project file, and look carefully for information relating to asbestos pipes or ACMs.

**Step 2** – If asbestos is present look for ways you can avoid disturbing it by doing the job in some other way, such as re routing, insertion etc. Discuss with your FLM.

**Step 3** - If you must excavate onto this material to lay over, under or alongside, then a Permit to Work and method statement will be required at the time you are ready to carry out this particular part of the work. You must understand and follow the processes in the permit closely, do not proceed unless your FLM has raised a permit, it is displayed on site and you and your team fully understand it and can adhere to its requirements.

*If these pipes are damaged, despite the above process work must **STOP**, the area barriered off to prohibit unauthorized access. The appropriate FLM should be contacted who in turn will contact the S&I Dept, where a **revised** risk assessment and Permit to Work will be required from a competent person.*