



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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NEWS

For Immediate Release
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SCAQMD Issues Asbestos Violations to School District, Contractors

The South Coast Air Quality Management District today issued violation notices to the Manhattan Beach Unified School District and two Southland contractors for the illegal removal, handling and disposal of asbestos last week at Mira Costa High School.

“SCAQMD’s prompt actions have helped to minimize the potential public health threat from exposure to asbestos,” said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD’s executive officer. “Since asbestos can pose a serious health risk if not properly handled, we work to ensure that all asbestos procedures in our region comply with our strict regulations.”

SCAQMD issued the notices to the Manhattan Beach school district, KYA Group, a general contractor based in Santa Ana, and Progressive Surface Solutions, a flooring contractor based in Tustin, for 27 violations each of SCAQMD and federal asbestos regulations.

The violations stem from a complaint received by SCAQMD on Aug. 16, alleging that asbestos-containing floor material was being disturbed in a textbook storage room in the library at Mira Costa High School at 1401 Artesia Blvd. in Manhattan Beach. According to the complainant, the work took place while some students, parents and staff were present for registration.

After receiving the complaint, SCAQMD dispatched inspectors to the school the same day, where they discovered that workers had used a power grinder on flooring material in the storage room. Tests conducted by SCAQMD and the school district’s asbestos contractor confirmed that the flooring material contained asbestos.

SCAQMD and other agencies are investigating whether any students, staff or parents could potentially have been exposed to dust or debris containing asbestos.

On Aug. 17, an asbestos abatement contractor hired by the school district submitted a cleanup plan to SCAQMD as required by the agency’s Rule 1403. However, the air district has requested further information regarding the scope of contamination. Cleanup of all asbestos-contaminated materials cannot begin until SCAQMD approves the plan.

SCAQMD notified Los Angeles County Fire Department Health HazMat Division, Cal-OSHA, and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. HazMat is also investigating the incident.

Information on asbestos and its health effects can be found at the federal Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry website at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=29&tid=4>.

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

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