

Site: KEEP at Montaña de Oro (Ocean)

Dear KEEP Parents and Staff:

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The law requires all schools to be inspected by inspectors accredited by the Environmental Protection Agency to identify any building materials that contain asbestos. The law further requires the development of a management plan by an EPA-accredited management planner based upon the findings of the inspection. The plan must outline our intent in controlling the potential for exposure to asbestos fibers in our schools.

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating and fire-retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contains at least some asbestos. The primary concern arises when these materials begin to deteriorate or become damaged.

The initial inspection of our classrooms is complete and some asbestos-containing materials were identified in our buildings. The materials were found in some new floor tiles, only. This is not considered to be hazardous to the health of the students or staff.

A management plan has been written and submitted to the state in draft form. It outlines in detail the methods we will use to maintain the materials in a safe manner. The schools have employed (contracted) staff who are EPA-accredited inspectors, management planners, contractor supervisors, and project designers to ensure that all procedures are properly administered in our schools. The management plan also includes a schedule for the phased removal of these materials as applicable.

A copy of the management plan is on file at our site.

Sincerely,



Mary C. Barlow

Kern County Superintendent of Schools



Desiree VonFlue, Assistant Superintendent
Kern Environmental Education Program