



# DESERT BREEZE

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## DISTRICT DMV GRANT PROGRAM

In 1990, Assembly Bill 2766 (AB 2766) was adopted into the California Health and Safety Code, which authorized the Department of Motor Vehicles to collect a clean air registration fee of \$4 per vehicle. The Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (District) allocates a substantial portion of AB 2766 funds to the Department of Motor Vehicle Grant Fund Program (DMV Grant Program). The DMV Grant Program provides a mechanism for fair unbiased distribution of AB 2766 funds to qualified emission reduction projects located within Eastern Kern.

**Grants are awarded** to projects that reduce NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, or particulate matter emissions from on-road motor vehicles. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

Replacing an older high emitting medium-duty or light-duty motor vehicle with a new electric, hybrid, alternative fuel, or other low emitting vehicle.

- Paving unpaved dirt public access roads.
- Treating unpaved dirt public access roads with dust palliatives.
- Installation of publicly accessible Level II or III Electric Vehicle charging station.
- Installation of publicly accessible CNG fueling station.
- Installation of publicly accessible videoconferencing system.
- Subsidy to initiate new commuter vanpool.
- Construction of public park and ride facility.
- Construction of bike path that serves schools or employment centers.
- Development and implementation of an air quality education program.



**Cook Peak Before**



**Cook Peak After**  
Paved with DMV Grant Funds

**Application period** normally commences on October 1<sup>st</sup> and closes 5pm on the second Friday in January. District staff reviews all applications submitted by the deadline, determines eligibility, forwards all qualifying projects to a Board appointed DMV Grant Committee (Committee). A town hall meeting is held annually in March that allows applicants to give oral presentations of their projects. The Committee selects projects for funding following the meeting and recommends those projects to the District Board for approval.

**More information is available** under the Grants/DMV Grants tab located on the District's website [www.kernair.org](http://www.kernair.org). The 2015 DMV Grant Program Request for Proposals and application package will be available for download from the District's website and hard copies will be available at the District's Administrative office located at 2700 "M" Street, Suite 302, Bakersfield, CA 93301 beginning October 1, 2014. This program is open to the public and everyone is welcome to apply.

# WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a hazardous air pollutant regulated by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Eastern Kern APCD (District). In general, asbestos is the name given to six silicate mineral fibers that can in nature. The EPA regulates those six minerals as “asbestos.” Serpentine is one of six minerals. It can be found throughout Kern County and it contains chrysotile - a form of asbestos. Serpentine is also the state rock of California.

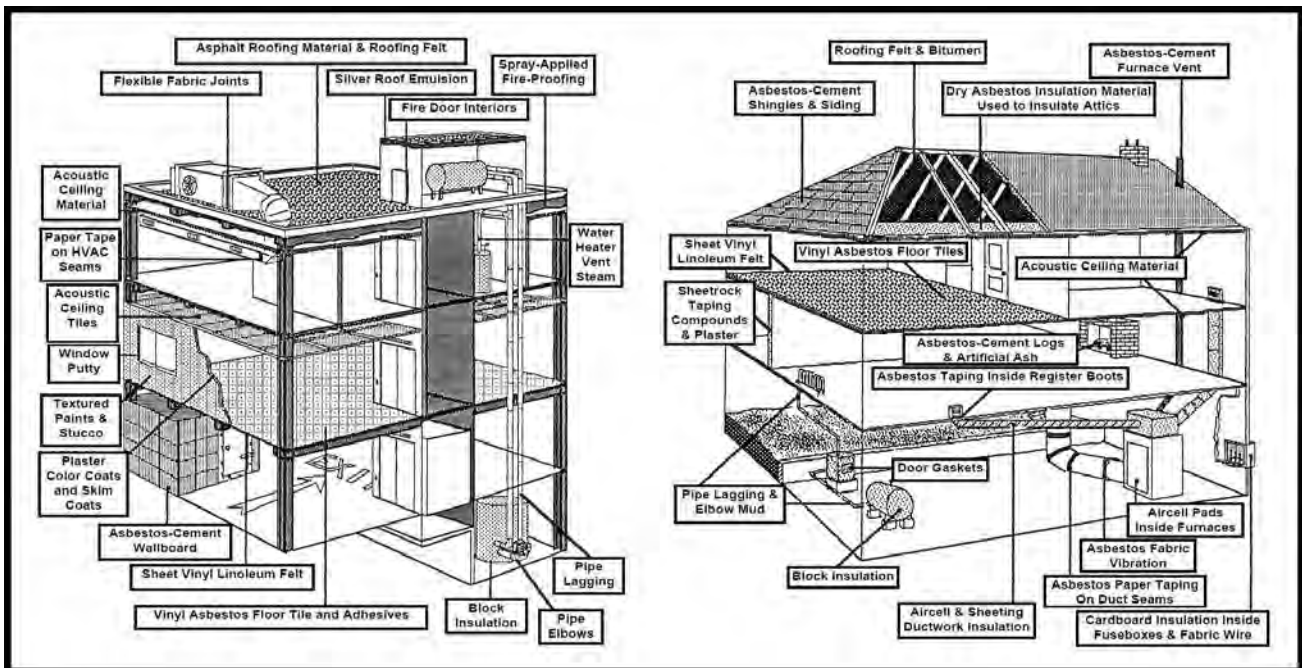
### Why did we use asbestos?

Because of its natural properties: fiber strength and heat resistance, asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant.

ample, asbestos fibers are more likely to be released from the acoustic ceilings than from the roofing felt because the ceiling material can easily crumble into dust. As a result, asbestos fibers becomes airborne and they can get into a human’s lungs.

### Why is airborne asbestos hazardous to humans?

Breathing in (inhalation) asbestos fibers can lead to serious health issues because asbestos fibers can reach tiny air sacs in a person’s lung and create scar tissues. There are three types of diseases associated with asbestos exposure; they are asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma.



Structural fireproofing, sprayed acoustic or decorative ceilings, plaster, stucco, insulation on pipes and HVAC systems, roofing, flooring, construction mastics and sealers are examples of applications that can contain asbestos. Because of its wide range of applications, asbestos may be present in several locations in homes, offices and buildings. The figure above shows some common areas where asbestos may have been used.

### How can asbestos get into a human’s body?

Asbestos in a particular product is not, necessarily, a cause for concern given it is maintained in an undamaged state. Asbestos fibers must be airborne to be dangerous. Disturbance of asbestos-containing material during product use, demolition work, building or home maintenance, repair, and remodeling can release asbestos fibers into the air. For ex-

### What did EPA do about asbestos containing materials (ACM)?

Due to asbestos’ health effects on the public, EPA started banning asbestos containing materials (ACM).

### How can we control asbestos?

Before any demolition can begin for buildings or homes, one needs to figure out whether or not asbestos is present by contacting contractors who will then take samples and send them to the lab. If lab reports confirm that there is asbestos in the building, a licensed asbestos removal specialist needs to be hired to perform such removal of asbestos. Contact the District for more information, or visit EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos>.



## CONFLICT IS A PART OF LIFE

Conflict is a part of life. Not always welcome, yet unavoidable because of incredible diversity. Enforcing air pollution regulations can be a source of conflict.

Our days are routinely complicated by stressful situations, tension, and conflict. Conflict can take many forms; and, equally variable are the ways in which it can be coped with. A spectrum representing these different approaches might range from avoidance to collaboration.

Some may avoid conflict with conviction and resolve. An avoidance of conflict can have perceived advantages; but, a problem may just be postponed, only to re-emerge as a more difficult situation. In this example a source of friction, unresolved, grows in perceived significance over time. One may be willing to speak of the issue, but be more inclined to just make concessions to relieve the discomfort of really seeking a solution.

A collaborative solution can be the most fruitful outcome. Fruitful because the possible benefits of *discussing* a source of conflict, really listening, and developing a working solution in which both sides of a dispute feel fairly-treated can improve on going interpersonal relations, mutual understanding, communication, productivity, and morale.

Effective communication skills lie at the heart of suc-

cessful conflict resolution: Active listening (listening to the message, reading body language, not formulating a response, not interrupting, and not sending distracting body language); Confirming that the speaker has been heard and understood (paraphrasing, for example).

Acknowledging (or accept) that some points cannot be resolved immediately and that satisfactory resolution is one in which differing positions feel not only as if they have not been taken advantage of, but actually gained, also known as a 'win-win' solution.

Effective communication is a key element of successful conflict resolution. Assumptions, either conscious or unconscious, careless body language, or interruptions can be barriers to effective communication. Conversely, asking for clarification, maintaining appropriate eye contact, asking open-ended questions, and actively listening foster improved communications.

As a County employee I am a public servant, and I try to provide service to the best of my ability. As an enforcer of regulations, my service is not always welcome. But every day I must be diligent, consistent, compassionate, accurate, and technically astute when dealing with my customers who consist of: the public, the permitted sources, and my colleagues.

## WHAT'S THE DROUGHT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

During the past several years California and other states in the Southwest have been experiencing a significant decrease of precipitation and rainfall, which has caused the state of California to declare a drought. The drought has effected lakes, agriculture, and our daily lives, but the lack of water has affected the air quality as well.

California is notorious for its wildfires and without the rainfall the state has been more susceptible to these fires because of the extremely dry brush. These fires produce soot, which stays in the air until it is washed away by the rain and wind. The buildup of particulate matter in the air can cause breathing problems, sore throat and other respiratory issues. Particulate matter is a mixture of small particles which can be made up of organic chemicals, metals,

soil, or dust particles.

Rain and precipitation are an imperative part of cleaning the air. When there is rainfall the rain "washes" the air. The rain droplets usually form around tiny particles and are carried down to earth, essentially removing them from the atmosphere. The less rain, the more particulate matter accumulates in the air.

Lack of rainfall can enable inversion layers to develop. Inversion layers create a stable atmosphere which does not allow pollutants to disperse easily, they are trapped close to the Earth where it can cause respiratory problems for the people in the affected areas. An increase in complaints of sore throats, chest irritation and asthmatic reactions have been reported in recent months.

Many air basins in California implement no burn days, where no burning of

shrubby or use of fireplaces are allowed. Since the drought there has been an increase in 'no burn days' throughout the state to offset the amount of particulate matter stagnant in the air.

In Eastern Kern County where there are very high winds, dust events are often reported. The lack of water in the area has had an effect on the terrain. Because the soil is so dry it does not take very strong winds to disturb the land and cause dust events. With these dust events comes poor air quality for the surrounding communities.

It is advised that limited time should be spent outside during "unhealthy" air days, especially sensitive groups such as the elderly and children. Use of energy and driving creates particulate matter emissions; reducing these activities are a couple of ways to spare the air.

**Board of Directors**

Ed Grimes, Chair (Councilman, Tehachapi)  
Zach Scrivner, Vice Chair (KC 2nd District Supervisor)  
Chip Holloway (Vice Mayor, Ridgecrest)  
Patrick Bohannon (Mayor, California City)  
Mick Gleason (KC 1st District Supervisor)

Board of Directors usually meet once every two months starting in January at various locations.

**Air Pollution Control Officer**

Glen E. Stephens, P.E.

**Hearing Board**

Bill Deaver  
Herb Roraback  
Doris Lora  
Dr. Wallace Kleck  
James Bell



For news updates and other information, please visit the Eastern Kern APCD website at [www.kernair.org](http://www.kernair.org)

EASTERN KERN APCD  
2700 M STREET, SUITE 302  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301

