

## Exposure to Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)

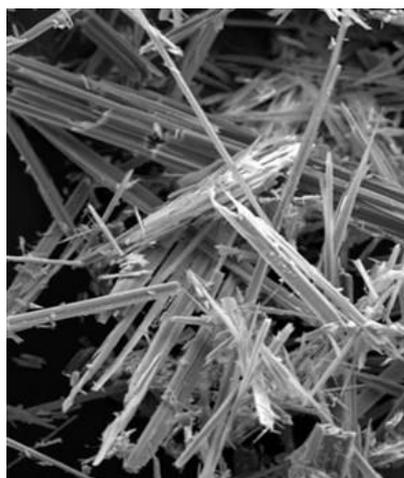
Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

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Location: Lords Covered Way tunnel near Marylebone, London

Contact: [Neil Jones](#), Regional Engineer, Buildings and Civil



## Overview

On 6th January 2021, an operative was installing temporary lighting in Lords Way Tunnel, near to Marylebone Station and whilst doing so, drilled into asbestos containing material (ACM).

When ACM is disturbed, asbestos fibres can be released and if inhaled can cause ill health such as Asbestosis, Lung Cancer or Mesothelioma.

In order to reduce the risk of exposure to asbestos, it is imperative that the correct processes are followed to identify assets that contain (or presumed to contain) ACM and to suitably plan, organise and deliver the work.

### When planning the work, you must:

- Check the Asbestos Risk Management System (ARMS) for the potential presence of ACMs.
- Presume that asbestos is present where there is no survey data to show otherwise.
- Communicate clearly the presence of ACMs to **ALL** involved in the planning and delivery of work.
- Ensure a safe system of work is in place.
- Stop work immediately if asbestos is discovered, or thought to be present after work has started.

The location of known asbestos at Network Rail infrastructure can be found in the ARMS Database. ARMS can be accessed here: <https://arms.networkrail.co.uk/>.

A username and password for ARMS can be obtained by following instructions on and from the above link.

A guide to using the system can be found under 'useful information' on the homepage screen once logged in.

More guidance is available in [NR/L2/CIV/168](#) (Issue 1) Asbestos Management.

## Discussion Points

- Are you up to date with your Asbestos Awareness eLearning?
- If you control site safety, access to buildings or are liable to disturb asbestos during your work, are you aware of the Asbestos eLearning available? These include asbestos Non-licensed Works training, and the imminent release of Enhanced Awareness training.
- Have you got ARMS log on and can you effectively navigate the system?
- Does your process for planning ensure the provision of all pre-construction information to those who need it?
- Would you know what to do if you suspected your work had disturbed ACMs?
- Non NR employees who control site safety and access to buildings or anyone liable to disturb asbestos during their work should be trained in Asbestos Awareness delivered by an accredited training provider as outlined in [NR/L2/CIV/168](#).
- Should an inadvertent exposure occur, [NR/L2/OHS/157](#) specifies actions to be taken.

