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ADEQ Announces Asbestos Awareness Seminar to be held Friday, July 17, in Flagstaff to Assist in Compliance

PHOENIX (June 29, 2009) – Officials from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality announced today that the agency will conduct an Asbestos Awareness Seminar on Friday, July 17, in Flagstaff to help demolition and renovation contractors and other city residents comply with asbestos regulations.

The seminar, sponsored by ADEQ in partnership with the Arizona chapter of the Environmental Information Association, will be held in city council chambers at Flagstaff City Hall, 211 W. Aspen Ave., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration deadline for the free event is July 13. For more information, visit www.eia-az.org or contact ADEQ at ms15@azdeq.gov.

ADEQ began the Route 66 Asbestos Initiative in 2007, to address potential asbestos problems in cities and towns throughout Arizona and ensure that asbestos-containing material is handled and disposed of properly. Previous seminars have been held in Clarkdale, Holbrook, Kingman, Nogales, and Winslow. ADEQ has asbestos specialists in its air-quality division to provide technical assistance and asbestos education to rural communities.

“It’s important to manage asbestos properly during a renovation or demolition to protect public health and prevent site contamination,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. “This initiative continues to be a good collaboration with communities to ensure asbestos is dealt with safely and properly and to help clean up contaminated sites.”

Grumbles also said he wants local officials from throughout the state to contact ADEQ if they have questions about potential asbestos problems in their communities.

“We want to know about improper asbestos demolition or renovation activities that could put people at risk,” Grumbles said.

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