

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contractors to Pay \$100,000 Penalty for Asbestos Air Quality Violations During Housing Renovations at Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma

PHOENIX (June 18, 2010) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Hunt Building Comp, Ltd., Camp Pendleton and Quantico Housing, LLC and Flores-Sierra Contractors, Inc. have agreed to pay a \$100,000 penalty under a consent judgment for asbestos air quality violations that occurred during housing renovations at Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma in 2006.

In addition, the defendants agreed to reimburse any uninsured costs of medical screening for asbestos exposure of residents living in 24 base housing units within the Capehart military family housing neighborhood in January and February 2006. The defendants will be working with the base to send written notification to the residents known to have lived in these units during that time period.

In January and February 2006, Hunt Building Comp., Ltd. and Flores/Sierra Contractors Inc. disturbed regulated asbestos containing materials during the renovation activities that involved disturbance of more than 6,400 square feet of wood and stucco. Military family residents reported the activities to ADEQ for investigation because they were concerned with potential exposure from dust generated by the renovations.

The violations are of the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Asbestos (Asbestos NESHAP). Asbestos is made up of microscopic bundles of fibers that may become airborne when damaged or disturbed. Exposure to airborne asbestos may result in potential health risks, and continued exposure can result in serious lung disease, including asbestosis, lung cancer or mesothelioma.

“Proper inspection and safe handling of asbestos from the start keeps people out of harm's way and companies in compliance with the law,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. “The good news is that after ADEQ's efforts the companies came into compliance and completed the project.”

“Strict compliance with asbestos identification, notification and handling requirements is necessary to ensure safe handling and disposal of these carcinogenic materials,” Attorney General Terry Goddard said. “Arizona's asbestos handling rules protect our communities, workforce and public health. Violations will not be tolerated.”

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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