No More Asbestos in Hong Kong Alliance (NMAHKA)
Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims

NMAHKA urge the Government to monitor the demolition of the asbestos
NMAHKA urge Edward Yau, the secretary of the Environment Bureau to turn over the policy of prohibiting asbestos.
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Ma Shi Po Village

NMAHK take samples from the five sites in Ma Shi Po Village
Residents ignorant of health risks reused dangerous roofing

Demolition crew dumped asbestos, villagers say

The Ban Asbestos Alliance said the situation pointed to risks in several southern villages where thousands of houses built with asbestos would soon be demolished for redevelopment.

Asbestos releases fibres into the air that can settle in lungs and airways. Prolonged accumulation of the fibres can cause scarring and shortness of breath. People exposed to the material for a long period of time face increased risk of lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma, an asbestos-related cancer.

At Ma Shi Po, residents used the asbestos to put under fences and on top of huts. A tomato farmer using it to make a water channel next to a field.

“I don’t know anything about asbestos... neighbours picked it up for their own use,” villager Ho Shing-I, 63, said. He said he had used his bare hands to break up an asbestos roof. “I am still okay,” he said.

Under the Factories and Industrial Undertaking Ordinance, the Labour Department has detailed guidelines for the handling of the asbestos, including the use of protective gear and cleaning of the site.

Alliance member Mak Tak-ching said villagers had told him workers demolishing the homes did not wear any protective clothing.

He said workers from the site should be singled out for follow-up health checks.

Mak said thousands of old houses in the northern part of Hong Kong, including Kwu Tung and Ping Ucc, were built with asbestos before the material was banned for construction purposes.

As those areas would be redeveloped soon, the government should make sure the houses were demolished properly. It should also ban the importing of asbestos.

A spokeswoman for Henderson Land said its contractor Treasure Wealth had demolished houses at the village in 2008 and last year.

“The contractor has given us written confirmation that no asbestos was found during their three rounds of demolition,” she said. All waste materials had been removed from the village.

Bat Kwan Hon-kwai, who has lived in Ma Shi Po for more than 50 years, said asbestos had been used in nine of 10 houses there and it was unlikely the contractor would not have encountered any.

An Environment Bureau spokesman said it would evaluate its policy on asbestos following changes in regulations of the material by other countries. It would not promulgate a ban on its use.
Kowloon Bay Industrial Building
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Pneumoconiosis

The action of striving for more comprehensive compensation
Pneumoconiosis

Self-help groups formed by pneumoconiosis sufferers
Workers urge the Government to amend pneumoconiosis Compensation Ordinance at Legislative Council
Pneumoconiosis

Rehabilitation Network for the Pneumoconiosis Patients by ARIAV
Pneumoconiosis

Local district gathering

Fellowship activities