This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 102.8 of the 2018 edition of the IFC.

The following shall apply to the abatement of any and all asbestos, occurring within the City of Des Moines:

The Des Moines Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau shall be notified by the building owner 24 hours prior to the commencement of asbestos removal operations. This advance notification provides an opportunity to inform emergency responders of the asbestos abatement project prior to being summoned to the building for an emergency. Work shall not begin until the Permit and Development Center has been contacted at (515) 283-4200 for building permits and the Fire Prevention Bureau has conducted an inspection of the abatement area. Below is a list of requirements that shall be adhered to:

1. **Plans and information shall be submitted** prior to beginning work and shall include a floor plan, location of exits, target completion date and emergency contacts.

2. **Exits shall be maintained.** Exits shall not be obstructed or blocked by scaffolding, plastic sheeting, temporary walls, etc.

3. **Combustible materials** used to seal areas from dust migration or to construct decontamination areas shall be minimized. **Fire resistant plastic sheeting** and steel scaffolding shall be used. Plywood, common plastic sheeting or wooden framing may **NOT** be used.

4. **Required separations shall be maintained.** Fire doors shall not be blocked open/removed and rated fire walls shall not be compromised.

5. **Electrical service:** The use of extension cords should be limited to those necessary for the project. The City of Des Moines electrical inspectors should be consulted for other electrical related issues.

6. **Required detection systems shall be maintained:** Detectors may be covered with plastic sheeting when the ceiling is encapsulated so as to prevent unnecessary alarms from asbestos dust. All areas not involved in abatement shall be protected by the premises fire alarm system, if provided. Temporary detection equipment shall be used if system detectors are inoperative. This system usually consists of wireless listed smoke detectors designed to send a signal to a receiving unit. This receiving unit shall sound a local alarm, communicate the signal to the building's normal alarm system and shut down the negative air pressure. If the building is provided with heat detectors, the additional system may not be needed. It may be permissible to deactivate this temporary smoke detection system during working hours when the space is occupied to avoid unnecessary alarms. This system shall be tested and approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

7. **Where automatic fire detection and/or sprinkler systems** are installed, automatic shut-down of negative air fans or any air moving equipment is required upon activation of the system(s).

8. **Sprinkler systems shall be maintained** unless alternate fire protection systems are allowed by the Fire Marshal.
9. **Temporary fire detection systems may be required by the Fire Marshal** in any building when abatement operations compromise required fire rated assemblies.

10. **Signs:** Approved signs shall be posted at the entrance, exit, decontamination areas and waste-disposal areas for asbestos-removal operations. The signs shall comply with OSHA regulations and signify that asbestos is being removed from the area, that asbestos is a suspected carcinogen and that proper respiratory protection is required. Lettering on signs shall be a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) high.

11. **For projects where the negative air handling equipment** is shut off at the end of the work shift, interconnection to the building fire alarm system is not necessary.

12. **The Fire Department shall be notified** of small projects occurring on short notice and conducted in the evening or on the weekend. Contractor shall contact Public Safety Dispatch at (515) 283-4550 and inform dispatcher as to the location, start time and anticipated duration of the project.

This policy shall not be deemed permission to violate any applicable codes and/or standards and/or other regulatory requirements for asbestos abatement. Satisfying these requirements shall be the minimum requirement for fire department approval of the abatement project.

Additional information pertaining to asbestos abatement may be found on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau website: [http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/asbestos/asbestos.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/asbestos/asbestos.html)

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Office of the Fire Marshal  
City of Des Moines Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
2715 Dean Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
Office: (515) 283-4242  
Fax: (515) 283-4907  
Email: firedept@dmgov.org