South Georgia Asbestos Training

Level 1



How to Use This Training

- Work through the presentation in order.
- Read all the information on each slide before moving on.
- Use the forward and back buttons within PowerPoint to navigate between slides.
- Some slides contain key messages that you will be tested on in the awareness quiz.
- The training should take approximately **20 minutes** to complete.



- This training provides a basic awareness of asbestos risks within South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.
- It is intended for museum staff, build team and other staff members who may handle low-risk asbestos containing materials as part of their work.



Aims

At the end of this module you should:

- Understand Access level 1 requirements
- Identify low-risk ACMs
- Assess whether an item can be handled safely
- Apply approved handling procedures
- Recognise when work must stop
- Follow emergency procedures



What is Access level 1?

Access Level 1 applies to activities involving:

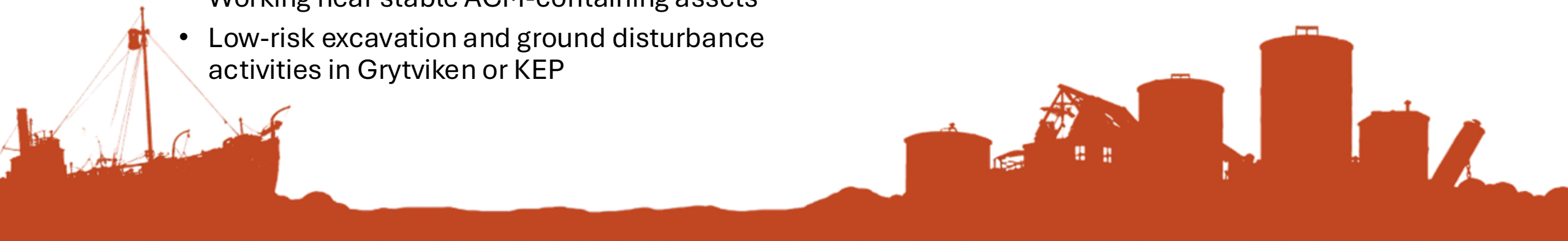
- Controlled environments
- Known, stable ACMs
- Encapsulated ACMs
- Low-risk interaction where disturbance is not expected

Examples include:

- Handling museum objects containing ACMs
- Inspecting encapsulated ACMs
- Working near stable ACM-containing assets
- Low-risk excavation and ground disturbance activities in Grytviken or KEP

Not Included

- ❌ Sampling
- ❌ Removal
- ❌ Repair
- ❌ Disturbance of ACMs
- ❌ Handling damaged ACMs



What do I need to work at Access level 1

To work at Access Level 1 you should:

- Complete:
  - South Georgia Asbestos Training Level 0 (Awareness)
  - South Georgia Asbestos Training Level 1

- Be familiar with the Access level 1 SOP
- Be familiar with Emergency Procedures
- Be named on a Regulated Activity Permit covering the planned work



Roles and responsibilities

Effective asbestos management relies on everyone understanding roles and responsibilities

Duty Holder - The GSGSSI nominated lead for asbestos management within the territory including responsibility for issuing permits, risk assessments and training

Government Officer – Supports operational coordination and may be involved in incident response and emergency situations

Line manager – Responsible for making sure RAPs are in place, staff have undertaken training and activities follow the relevant SOP

You – Responsible for following training and SOPs, working safely and reporting incidents



Where is the Information Held?

Territories Asbestos Atlas (TAA)

Before handling any object or undertaking work on station structures or undertaking excavation activities at Grytviken or KEP:

- Check the TAA
- Confirm the ACM status and access level
- For museum objects, check to see if there is a label
- For excavations confirm not in known burial area

If information is available, use it.

If information is unavailable, take a precautionary approach



Information in the TAA

Asbestos product			Considerations for safe access			Management	
Product type - Friable	Status	Condition of ACM	Structural colapse risk	Proximity to high risk ACMs	Surface debris	Indicative Access Level	Management
Sectional Thermal Insulation (Pipe/Plant Lagging)	Confirmed though laboritory testing	Good	High	Yes	High	Level 1	Monitor
Asbestos Insulating Board (AIB/Millboard)	Known though local assessment	Degraded	Medium	No	Low	Level 2	Restrict
Asbestos Cement Products	Presumed based on historical context	Unknown	Low		N/A	Level 3	Encapsulate
Compressed Asbestos Gaskets / Rope Seals	Unknown but possible	N/A	N/A			Level 4a	Priority removal
Loose Debris / Contaminated Soils	Unlikely					Level 4b	N/A
Textile Pipe Insulation Products	Removed					Level 5	
Textile Flash Guards (Electrical Equipment)							
Asbestos Containing Composite Resins (Electrical Equipment)							
Asbestos Paper products							
Loose fill Asbestos							
Multiple ACMs Present (See Notes)							
Unknown/not assessed							
None							



Asbestos at Grytviken

Following a major clean up operation in 1990's, much of the asbestos at Grytviken was removed

Asbestos remains

- In some historic objects in the museum
- In some of the remaining whaling station structures
- Buried in the ground

Most asbestos that remains is stable (either as a bonded material or though encapsulation)



Excavation in Grytviken

- During the clean up of Grytviken, a large amount of asbestos waste was buried.
- Under no circumstances must excavations take place in this area.





Buried asbestos may be present in other areas

- Even outside known asbestos burial areas, personnel must remain vigilant.
- Not all contaminated areas are necessarily visible from the surface
- Before doing any excavation work
  - ✅ Check the Territories Asbestos Atlas (TAA)
  - ✅ Confirm the work area is not within a mapped asbestos burial area
  - ✅ Ensure the work is authorised through the RAP process
  - ✅ If uncertain about the location, stop and seek advice





The vessels

- The former whale catchers **Albatross, Petrel and Dias** contain large amounts of highly friable asbestos in the engine rooms.
- Whilst enclosed this is safe
- Access to the vessels is strictly **prohibited**



The Three Categories

Before handling an object or undertaking work, decide what category applies



Category A – Known or presumed to contain ACMs e.g. fire helmet with asbestos gasket on vision panel



Category B – Known NOT to contain ACMs e.g. Cast of Squid beak



Category C – Unknown ACM status e.g. lamp new to collection/not assessed

Category A – Known ACM present

If an object is known to contain an ACM, it may ONLY be handled if the ACM:

- Is encapsulated or sealed
- Is in good condition
- Is not likely to be disturbed due to work

Examples include

- Sealed ACMs
- ACMs within solid materials e.g. bakelite
- Gaskets on oil tanks or machinery that have been encapsulated



Encapsulated asbestos gasket at Grytviken

Category B – no ACM present

Records confirm the item does not contain any ACM, or is a natural history object

Normal handling procedures may be followed

Still Required

- Good housekeeping
- Careful handling
- Reporting of any unexpected findings



Taxidermy pintail – natural history specimens should not contain ACMs

Category C – Unknown ACM status

Before handling carry out a visual inspection looking for:

- Damage / deterioration
- Exposed insulation
- Fibre-like material
- Unknown gasket material

If present:

- ❌ Stop
- 📷 Photograph
- ☎ Refer for advice



Radio – may have Bakelite knobs or ACM internal components

Safe Handling Procedures

When handling / work is permitted:

You must:

- ✅ Handle objects carefully
- ✅ Minimise movement and dust generation
- ✅ Avoid impacts
- ✅ Avoid vibration
- ✅ Return objects after use

You Must Not

- ❌ Dismantle components
- ❌ Remove covers / open sealed compartments
- ❌ Scrape
- ❌ Sand
- ❌ Drill
- ❌ Cut
- ❌ Clean ACM components

Key principal = no disturbance



Personal Protective Measures

Specialist asbestos PPE is not normally required for Access Level 1 activities.

Personnel should:

- ✅ Check the TAA before starting work
- ✅ Wash hands after handling
- ✅ Avoid touching the face
- ✅ Avoid eating or drinking while working
- ✅ Maintain good hygiene

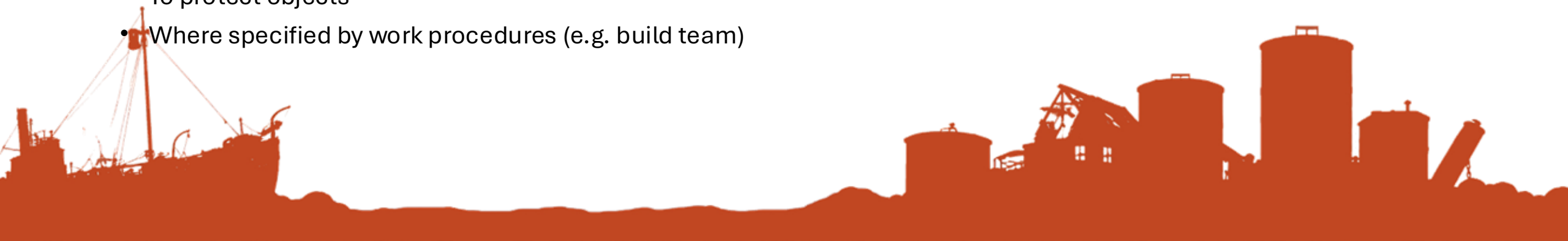
If unsure:

❌ Stop
📷 Photograph
☎ Refer for advice

Gloves

May be used:

- To protect objects
- Where specified by work procedures (e.g. build team)



When work must stop

Stop immediately if:

- Previously unidentified suspect material is found
- Damage to an ACM or encapsulation is identified
- A component becomes detached
- Fibre release or excessive dust occurs/is suspected
- The object's condition is worse than expected
- Suspected asbestos containing material is discovered in soil

STOP
Place object somewhere safe (if appropriate)
Avoid further handling or disturbance

WITHDRAW
Prevent further access

RECORD
Photograph if safe

REPORT
Notify Duty Holder (and GO, SL, Curator)
Record through the RAP system



Practical example - 1

Museum Object with suspected ACM gasket

- Recorded in TAA
- In good condition
- Task is to clean with damp cloth



✅ Handle in accordance with the SOP

Practical example - 2

New object brought to museum of unknown status

- Whaling era object
- Used
- Appears damaged and to contain fibrous material



❌ Do not handle.

📷 Photograph.

☎ Refer for assessment.

Practical example - 3

A JCB accidentally damages an old encapsulated gasket at Grytviken



- ❌ Stop work.
- ✅ Prevent further disturbance.
- 📷 Photograph if safe.
- ☎ Notify Duty Holder.

Practical example - 4

A team is digging a small hole for a sign post. The TAA confirms the location is outside a known asbestos burial area.

Part way through excavation, several fragments of board and fibrous textile-like material are uncovered.



❌ Stop work

✅ Move away from the area and prevent further access

📷 Photograph if safe.

☎ Notify Duty Holder.

Emergency Procedures

Stop

- Stop work immediatly
- Do not continue activity
- Do not attempt to inspect, sample, move, clean up, or otherwise investigate the material

Withdraw

Move away from the immediate area by the safest available route
Avoid causing further disturbance.
Follow decontamination proceedures if needed

Record

Where it is safe to do so: take GPS possition and photographs
Personnel must not re-enter or approach the area solely to obtain photographs or location information.

Report

Report the incident immediately to the Duty Holder or nominated deputy
Provide: location, nature of incident, names of people involbed, photographs and GPS possitions

Do not:

- ✗ Clean up
- ✗ Repair
- ✗ Investigate



Quiz

When you are ready click here to go to the quiz

Good luck!

