



## Asbestos in Gardens – A Real Risk to Health

Half day seminar, IOM, Edinburgh, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

IOM, in association with REHIS, is running a seminar on “Asbestos Contamination in Gardens” in Edinburgh on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at the IOM. We regularly find asbestos contamination in gardens in housing estates, often on redeveloped brownfield sites. Concentrations can be disturbingly high. In dry weather, asbestos can easily become airborne as a result of active gardening and children’s sports and games. Asbestos in gardens can also be transferred inside, causing additional, secondary exposures. Our risk assessments have revealed that these asbestos exposures can cause small increased risks of lung cancer and mesothelioma.

**This seminar will cover asbestos in brownfield sites and gardens, assessing asbestos in gardens, how exposure occurs, risks to health, remediation and SPOSH.**

This half day event is aimed at EHOs, Contaminated Land Officers and others involved with assessing and managing risks from contaminated land. Participation in this seminar carries a maximum value of 3 hours (core activity) for the REHIS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme.

For further information and registration forms, please contact Emma Michalski on 0131 449 8006 or [seminar@iom-world.org](mailto:seminar@iom-world.org). Registration forms are also available on [www.iom-world.org/news/asbestos\\_contamination\\_seminar.php](http://www.iom-world.org/news/asbestos_contamination_seminar.php).

### Programme

1.30	Registration, tea, coffee
2.00	<i>Introduction:</i> asbestos, asbestos on brownfield sites, sources, changing standards in asbestos management, asbestos in gardens, aging of asbestos containing materials, how exposure occurs
2.30	<i>Case Study:</i> general description of scenario (to be used to illustrate during the seminar)
2.45	<i>Assessing the site:</i> review of the site (previous use, date of redevelopment, evidence of asbestos, source of top soil etc) field investigations, sampling depths, frequencies, quantitative asbestos analysis, air monitoring; interpreting soil analysis results
3.30	<i>Tea, Coffee</i>
3.45	<i>Estimating exposure:</i> links between soil composition, dryness, activities and fibre assessment; exposure during garden activities; seasonal differences; secondary exposure in houses;
4.15	<i>Health risks:</i> calculating risks, acceptability of risk, dealing with residents, restricting garden activities, SPOSH and remediation;
4.45	<i>Closing discussion</i>
5.15	<i>Close</i>