



DEC Brownfields Program

November 2023

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Contaminated Sites Program

CASE STUDY: Kasaan Library, Kasaan

The Kasaan Library is housed in a modular unit owned by the Southeast Island School District (SISD), which is also used as a part-time elementary school classroom. Since the building was constructed around 1977, asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) were suspected throughout the structure.

In 2019, the Organized Village of Kasaan requested the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) conduct a hazardous building material (HBM) survey of the library through its DEC Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) program. During the survey, samples were taken from walls, floorings, ceilings, and mastic in several rooms. Twenty-two samples contained asbestos above the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air pollutants (NESHAP) standards (i.e., greater than 1 percent asbestos).

In 2020, DEC issued an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) for public comment, recommending asbestos abatement and proper disposal of ACMs. The following year, asbestos abatement of the building was conducted through the DBAC program. Staff donned appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including powered air purifying respirators (PAPR) masks that were properly fitted for individuals. A heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system was employed to control the indoor environment for health. The building site was also closed off and sealed in a containment area. Following removal, 255 bags (768 square feet) of ACMs were packaged and shipped to Anchorage for proper disposal.

After abatement activities concluded, the community of Kasaan remodeled the building and began safely reusing it as a safely operating preschool for resident children.

Highlights

- Former library and elementary school
- Awarded multiple DEC Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup services, including an HBM survey (2019), cleanup planning (2021), and asbestos abatement (2021)
- 255 large trash bags of ACMs abated and disposed of off-site
- Community reusing the property as

See the [Contaminated Sites Database](#), File No. 1515.38.005 for more information

"The building is clean of all asbestos and is now being used as a preschool classroom. It is a blessing to know that our children can learn in an environment that is not going to cause any harm to them now, or in the future! We count the cleanup as a big success."

- LaNeice Congdon, Organized Village of Kasaan

