

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2017

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## Air district settles case with San Francisco Hilton Hotel

Hotel to pay \$150,000 for asbestos violations

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that the San Francisco Financial District Hilton Hotel, located at 750 Kearny Street, has agreed to pay \$150,000 for asbestos violations that occurred at the hotel during 2015 - 2016.

Air District inspectors found seven violations of asbestos regulations that occurred during renovations of hotel rooms and may have resulted in the release of asbestos fibers. The asbestos violations were corrected after they were discovered.

"Asbestos removal is regulated because of its potential harm to the health of workers that handle it as well as the public if the fibers become airborne," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Work that is not compliant with air quality regulations will be subject to enforcement action and significant fines."

Violation notices included the failure to:

- Notify the Air District of the renovations
- Perform an asbestos survey prior to starting work
- Keep the enclosed work area at negative air pressure
- Have a certified on-site representative
- Keep asbestos containing material in sealed, labeled, leak-tight containers
- Dispose of asbestos containing materials in an appropriate landfill
- Failure to properly manifest asbestos containing material shipments for disposal

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral often used in building materials. Because it has been proven to cause serious diseases, it is strictly regulated in its use and removal.

The Air District regulates the demolition and renovation of buildings and structures that may contain asbestos in the region and the manufacture of materials known to contain asbestos. Air District regulations include survey, notification and specific work practice requirements to prevent asbestos emissions from being released during renovation and demolition activities.

All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities that let to this settlement.

The <u>Bay Area Air Quality Management District</u> is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

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