Procedures for an uncontrolled release of asbestos are as follows:

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| **MINOR** Asbestos Release | **MAJOR** Asbestos Release |
| Examples: Puncture to pipe insulation, contact with insulated beam, breakage of corner section of tile or wall panel. | Examples: Physical damage to pipe insulation resulting in sections breaking off, insulation falling from beams onto the back of ceiling tile. |
| 1. Immediately evacuate workers from the area of the release.
2. Barricade the area to prevent access.
3. Competent workers using required PPE will follow the appropriate asbestos process (typically low risk for a minor release) to clean up and decontaminate the area.
4. Any remaining damaged ACM that cannot be immediately removed will be repaired to prevent further release of fibres.
 | 1. Immediately evacuate workers from the area of the release.
2. Shut down any operating equipment that may disperse asbestos fibres (eg. air handling equipment).
3. Barricade the area to prevent access.
4. Seal off the contaminated area as reasonably practicable.
5. Competent personnel using required PPE will follow the appropriate asbestos process (typically high risk for a major release) to clean up and decontaminate the area. If required, a competent third party contractor will be contacted to conduct the remediation.
6. Any remaining damaged ACM that cannot be immediately removed will be repaired to prevent further release of fibres.
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| **If an uncontrolled release results in a potential worker exposure to ACM:** |
| 1. The Occupational Health Committee (OHC) will be notified and will complete an investigation as soon as possible after the release is discovered.
2. The OHC will determine through the investigation whether any workers were exposed to ACM.
* Note: Factors to consider in determining whether a worker was exposed include:
	+ Friability of ACM – exposure potential is low for non-friable ACM
	+ Nature of the release – major or minor – less airborne dust/fibre lowers the exposure potential (eg. if the damaged material is wet and/or non-friable)
	+ Duration of exposure – spending time working in airborne dust/fibre increases the exposure potential vs. walking by an area where a release has occurred
1. A copy of the OHC investigation will be provided to any worker who may have been exposed as a result of the asbestos release and to the site nurse.
2. Any worker determined to have had an ACM exposure will be informed that they can consult with the site nurse.
	1. The nurse will provide a consultation and arrange a medical exam, if required, for a worker who has had an exposure.
	2. The nurse will provide the worker with a letter (Appendix G) containing the exposure details for the employee’s medical record.
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