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**PUBLICATION RELEASE**

**CGS Map Sheet 59 / USGS Open File Report 2011-1188**

**REPORTED HISTORIC ASBESTOS MINES, HISTORIC ASBESTOS PROSPECTS, AND OTHER  
NATURAL OCCURRENCES OF ASBESTOS IN CALIFORNIA**

by

Bradley S. Van Gosen (United States Geological Survey, Denver, CO) and  
John P. Clinkenbeard (California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA)

California has experienced rising concern over the potential health impacts of public exposure to naturally occurring asbestos in recent years. Asbestos has been reported to occur in 45 of California's 58 counties. An additional eight counties contain occurrences of ultramafic rocks, serpentinite, or fibrous amphibole indicating these counties contain geologic environments favorable for the occurrence of asbestos.

This study, jointly published by the California Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey, provides information on 290 natural occurrences of asbestos in California using descriptions found in the geologic literature. This report, map, and accompanying digital data tables allows the user to examine the distribution and geologic characteristics of the reported asbestos occurrences in California. Data on location, mineralogy, geology, and relevant references for each asbestos site are provided in the digital files.

CGS Map Sheet 59 is available as a free download from the California Geological Survey website ([http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/hazardous\\_minerals/asbestos/Pages/Index.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/hazardous_minerals/asbestos/Pages/Index.aspx)). This report is also available as USGS Open File Report 2011-1188 and can be downloaded from the USGS publications website (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1188>).