



**For Immediate Release:**

April 28, 2016

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**Baton Rouge man arrested for filing false public documents**

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and deputies with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office Warrants Division arrested a Baton Rouge man for felony filing false public documents.

Randy Gabriel Dobard, 49, of Baton Rouge is alleged to have falsified and submitted an asbestos abatement supervisor training certificate in an attempt to receive his accreditation from DEQ. Under Department regulations, individuals who work around asbestos and supervise asbestos abatement workers are required to obtain training that covers the physical characteristics of asbestos, the potential health effects related to asbestos exposure, medical monitoring, air monitoring and a variety of other health and safety topics. To receive and maintain DEQ accreditation, workers and supervisors must submit an asbestos accreditation affidavit form (AAC-1), proof of training from a DEQ approved training provider, and an accreditation fee on an annual basis.

On April 18, Dobard allegedly submitted a falsified asbestos supervisor training certificate to DEQ. The certificate submitted by Dobard stated that he received training the week prior from a New Orleans area training contractor. Further investigation by DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division revealed that the document contained a false certification number, false signatures and false training dates. The training contractor listed on the document, Southern Center for Environmental Justice, Inc., cooperated fully in the DEQ’s investigation and verified that no asbestos supervisor training class had even been taught on the dates listed on the document submitted by Dobard.

“The training provided by these contractors, and accredited by DEQ, is designed to protect both the workers and the public from asbestos exposures during renovations and structure demolitions,” said Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ Secretary. “Submitting false training credentials to an agency tasked with protecting human health and the environment compromises the integrity of the program. Such actions will not be tolerated by DEQ.”

If convicted of the crime of filing or maintaining a false public document, Dobard faces possible imprisonment for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

*An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.*