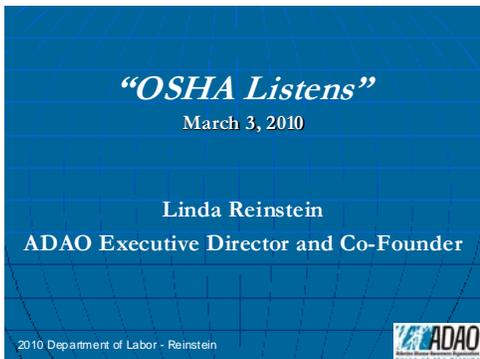
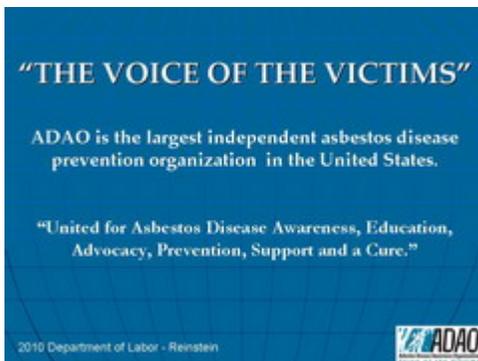


Linda Reinstein, ADAO Executive Director and Co-Founder
March 3, 2010

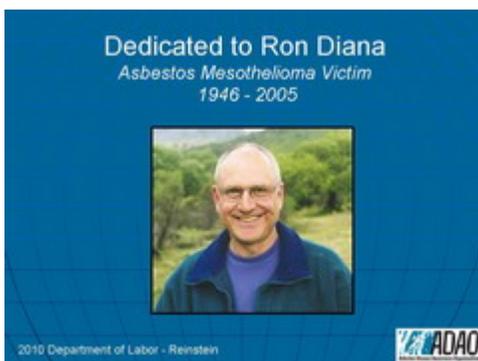
Department of Labor: 'OSHA Listens'



Good morning Dr. Michaels. Thank you for giving me the honor and opportunity to participate in OSHA's important event to turn listening into action. I am Linda Reinstein, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), the largest independent asbestos victims' organization in the United States. Our network is over 6,000 strong with a Science Advisory Board, led by Dr. Richard Lemen and Dr. Arthur Frank, that includes nine of the most well-respected and expert professionals in the nation.



On behalf of ADAO, I solemnly join you today, representing tens of thousands of workers and families silenced by asbestos. Since 2004, ADAO has worked with Congress to ban asbestos and raise awareness to prevent exposure, thus eliminating diseases. But we need OSHA's help.



Our ADAO tradition is to dedicate each presentation, whether on The Hill or at conferences, to an asbestos victim. Today, I want to dedicate my presentation to Ron Diana, who lost his mesothelioma battle at age 59 years old and left his shattered family behind.

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization
"United for Asbestos Disease Awareness, Education, Advocacy, Prevention, Support and a Cure"
1525 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 318 · Redondo Beach · California · 90278 · 310.437.3886
www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org

Victim
the only word that describes



1. A patient, living or deceased, who was diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease
2. Person exposed to asbestos
3. Family members of those exposed or diagnosed with ARD

2010 Department of Labor - Reinstein



ADAO consciously uses the word victim, as there is no other word that describes patients, families, and decedents whose lives have been devastated by asbestos. The fact that mesothelioma is preventable often increases trauma that many times requires psychiatric treatment.

Alan Reinstein, former ADAO President
Pleural Mesothelioma Victim



May 2005 May 2006

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For more than a century, asbestos, a human carcinogen, has been known to cause disease, yet workers health and safety is routinely endangered and violated. In 2003, after enduring 9 months of undiagnosed symptoms, surgery confirmed that my late husband Alan had mesothelioma. He chose to undergo the EPP surgery breaking his ribs, removing his lung, and replacing his diaphragm in order to have more time with his family. Alan paid the ultimate price for his job, his life. When my daughter Emily was 13, she watched her father slowly die from a preventable disease.

The U.S. Surgeon General, WHO, EPA and ILO agree:



Asbestos is a human carcinogen and there is no safe level of exposure.

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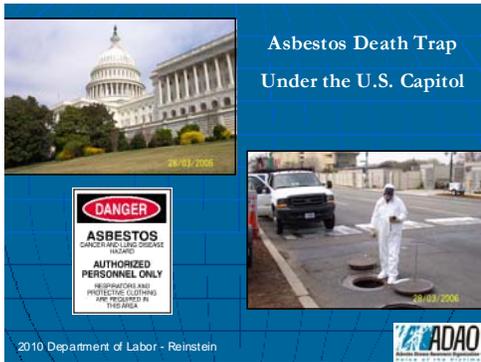
More than 30 years ago, the International Agency for Research on Cancer declared asbestos to be a human carcinogen, yet exposure continues. Although the WHO, ILO, EPA, and U.S. Surgeon General agree: there is no safe level of exposure; occupational exposure remains one of the greatest known sources of asbestos disease - not only for the worker, but their families. As OSHA states, **“Asbestos is well recognized as a health hazard and is highly regulated. An estimated 1.3 million employees in the construction and general industry face significant asbestos exposure on the job.”** Heaviest exposures occur in the construction industry, particularly during the removal of asbestos during renovation or demolition. Employees are also likely to be exposed during the manufacture of asbestos products (such as textiles, friction products, insulation, and other building materials), and during automotive brake and clutch repair work.”

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More than 10,000 Americans die annually from asbestos-caused disease. ADAO is routinely alerted to regulatory violations confirming lack of compliance and enforcement that threatens public health. In 2001, the collapse of the World Trade Center towers led to the release of hundreds of tons of asbestos. In New Orleans, the asbestos clean-up from Hurricane Katrina continues; 6,000 homes still need to be demolished, and residents are already suffering from unresolved debris management issues – and

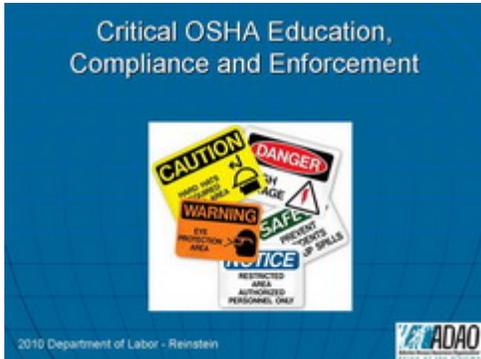
exposures continue. However, you would not have heard about a violation regarding my husband as he was likely exposed in the 1960's, and OSHA did not exist at that time.



There is a tragic example of worker violations right here in DC with the former Architect of the Capitol (AOC) employees who were exposed and sickened by asbestos, while maintaining our Capitol Hill tunnels. Although the Office of Compliance (OOC) issued multiple citations to the AOC - exposure continued. These hard working Federal employees were removed from the tunnels in March 2007.

jobs.

To date, more than half of these men are sick and struggling to find

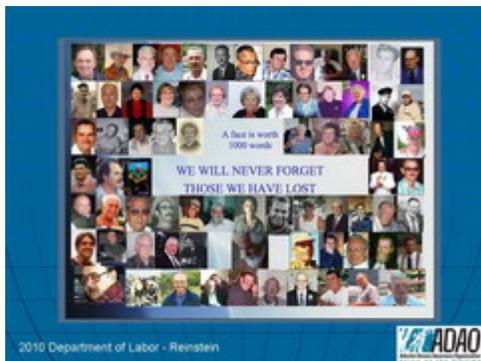


ADAO urges OSHA to move from “helping to control” to preventing asbestos exposure. We urge you to disseminate the educational resources such as the Gold¹, Green², and Purple Books, personal protective equipment (PPE) regulations to raise awareness, support best practices, and encourage compliance. ADAO’s multiple Hill meetings to raise support for a ban asbestos bill has been met

¹ Current Best Practices for Preventing Asbestos Exposure Among Brake and Clutch Repair Workers, (Gold Book). (2007, April)

² Managing Asbestos In Place, A Building Owner's Guide to Operations and Maintenance Programs for Asbestos-Containing Materials (Green Book). (1990, July)

with the resistance arguing concern for job loss. We believe that a life is worth more than a job.



One life lost to asbestos disease is tragic; hundreds of thousands of lives is unconscionable. We urge Secretary Solis to support a ban of asbestos. OSHA has the opportunity and responsibility to protect Americans from these preventable asbestos-related diseases. Please count on ADAO to support your new policies to protect workers and their families. On behalf of those who have lost their lives to asbestos, I want to thank OSHA for the opportunity to present.

Question from Mr. Fitzpatrick: "Is there more we can do?"

Response from Linda Reinstein: Before an accident becomes a fatality, OSHA should work on the preventative and education side. We welcome the opportunity to prevent disease.