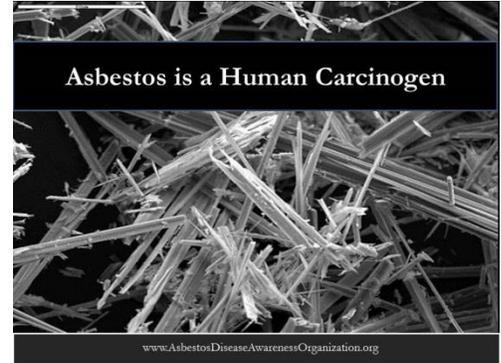


Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Executive Summary

Asbestos: The Impact on Public Health, the Environment, and the Economy

Asbestos-caused cancer and respiratory diseases claim the lives of more than 10,000 Americans each year. The deadly hazard of asbestos has been known for decades. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Surgeon General have declared that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos. Even limited exposure over a short period of time can lead to disease decades later. More than 50 countries worldwide have asbestos bans. Although safe substitutes exist, the United States still has not banned asbestos.



- 1) The World Health Organization, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Surgeon General agree: asbestos is a human carcinogen and there is no safe level of asbestos exposure.
- 2) Asbestos exposure has caused a pandemic and asbestos-related deaths are increasing.

Richard A. Lemen, PhD, MSPH, Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS (ret.)

- 1) The Twin Towers were full of cancer-causing asbestos, which covered everything and everybody.
- 2) Preliminary studies already show higher rates of cancer in people exposed on 9/11.

Raja M. Flores, MD, Mount Sinai Hospital

- 1) Enforcement of existing asbestos regulations is necessary for the ongoing management of asbestos exposures to children, workers, and the environment.
- 2) EPA's TSCA Subchapter II is a regulatory anchor for all Federal, State and Local agencies' asbestos regulations.

Thomas G. Laubenthal, The Environmental Institute

- 1) The lack of a ban in the U.S. enables asbestos products no longer made here, such as brake pads and gaskets, to continue to be imported.
- 2) The U.S. importation of asbestos harms Americans and American producers of safer alternative products.

Barry Castleman, ScD, Environmental Consultant

- 1) 10,000 Americans die every year from preventable asbestos-caused diseases.
- 2) In industrialized nations, nearly 1 in 3 people with mesothelioma have no history of workplace exposure to asbestos.

Ellen Patton, Mesothelioma Patient

- 1) Although safe substitutes exist, the USGS reported the United States imported 1,060 tons of asbestos in 2012 for use in manufacturing.
- 2) The existing Chemical Safety Improvement Act (S. 1009) fails to protect public health.

Linda Reinstein, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization