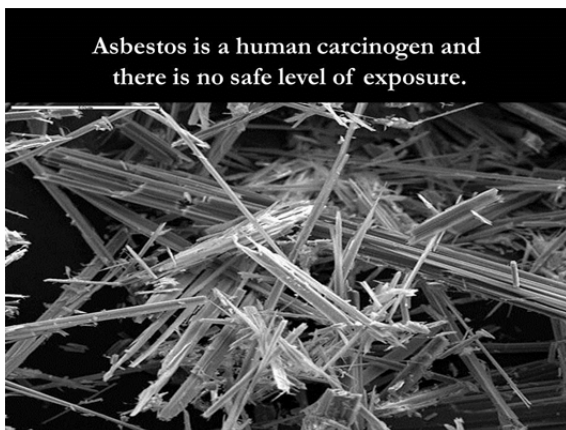


Asbestos: Killer Dust

Preventing Asbestos Exposure to Eliminate Deadly Diseases

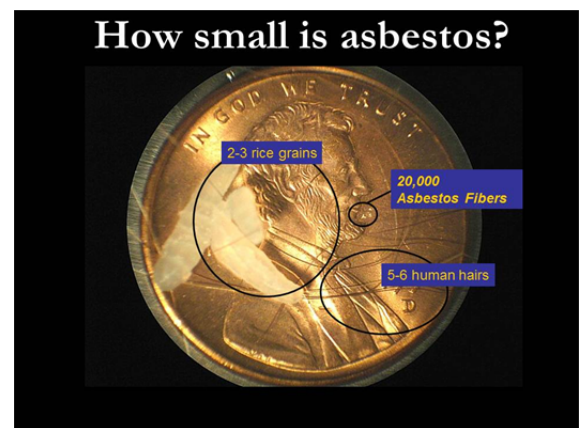
The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization applauds the people of Bihar for their successful educational campaign in opposition of a possible new asbestos factory at Muzaffarpur, Bihar.



More than 30 years ago, the International Agency for Research on Cancer declared asbestos to be a human carcinogen. The World Health Organization, International Labor Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Surgeon General all agree: asbestos is a human carcinogen and there is no safe level of asbestos exposure. ALL forms of asbestos cause malignant mesothelioma, lung, laryngeal, and ovarian cancers, and may cause gastrointestinal and other cancers.

The WHO states that 107,000 workers die annually from asbestos-related lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. This is a nearly a 20% increase in workers deaths compared to the 2006 statistic. In addition, more than 1.5 million years are lost due to premature morbidity and disability from asbestos exposure – all from a virtually invisible, yet absolutely lethal asbestos fiber.

Decades of science have proven that ALL six types of asbestos fibers – chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite – are carcinogenic. This lethal mineral has only been banned in 55 countries and the United States and Canada are not among them. Many countries still use, import, and export asbestos and asbestos-containing products and Chrysotile accounts for more than 95% of all the asbestos used globally. Despite the industry's disingenuous assertions, EVERY form of



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asbestos -- including chrysotile -- are proven human carcinogens. The nearly invisible asbestos fibers can be 700 times smaller than human hair, odorless, tasteless, indestructible fibers, and remain suspended in the air for seconds...or days.

In May 2010, the United States President's Cancer Panel (PCP) released the landmark 200-page report entitled, ***“Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now”***. Environmental cancers are on agency radars more now than ever before. The panel reported “Construction workers were found to be 11 times more likely to develop mesothelioma, due to asbestos exposures at the site” and that, “The public is becoming increasingly aware of the unacceptable burden of cancer resulting from environmental and occupational exposures that could have been prevented through appropriate national action.”



On April 1, 2009, the United States Surgeon General issued a warning in agreement with the World Health Organization’s “Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases.” More than 90 percent of the asbestos used worldwide today is used in the manufacture of asbestos-cement sheets and pipes.

In the United States, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 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.” Occupational exposure remains one of the greatest known sources of asbestos disease. But it’s not just workers who are at risk; it’s also their families – children who hug their parents when they come home from work, and spouses who wash clothes after a long day on the job.

Asbestos knows no boundaries; asbestos fibers do not discriminate because of age, race, social class, or gender. The profile of victims of asbestos-related disease was once a blue-collar worker, but as ADAO has observed, there is a new patient profile emerging. It is becoming more and more common to find women in their 50s who are diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Asbestos-related diseases are frequently misdiagnosed because symptoms can be mistaken for pneumonia or bronchitis. Victims are likely to present symptoms and complaints similar to many other common respiratory

diseases; the proper diagnosis and treatment are often delayed.

Due to the latency period of 10–50 years, both malignant and nonmalignant diseases are under reported, and the challenges in treating asbestos-related diseases are only exacerbated. Most patients die within 6–12 months after diagnosis. No exposure to asbestos is without risk. Asbestos cancer victims die painful, lingering deaths and each death is almost entirely preventable.

Asbestos was widely used in building and construction in the United States and an estimated 35 million homes are contaminated with asbestos-tainted insulation called Zonolite. Offices, hospitals, schools, and extensive underground infrastructures – including electrical, sewer and water systems, tunnels and subways – can be contaminated.

Despite all that is known about the dangers of asbestos, annual world production remains at over 2 million tons. Russia is now the leading producer of asbestos worldwide, followed by China, Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Canada. In 2008, these countries accounted for 96% of the world production of asbestos (USGS 2008). A reported 43 percent of asbestos mined in Canada is exported to India.

We congratulate and support the people of Bihar for their efforts, and encourage the people of India to continue their fight against asbestos production in their nation through their educational programs.

In solidarity,

Linda Reinstein, ADAO Executive Director, Cofounder and Mesothelioma Widow

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