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INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

FROM	AT	TO	AT
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COPIES TO

SUBJECT	DATE
A REMINDER ON MARINITE	December 21, 19

Dust from Marinite should be treated with great caution (see Industrial Hygiene Bulletin No. 7, Asbestos, September, 1963). The indictment of asbestos as a cancer producing chemical continues to grow. Evidence of this can be seen in the Asbestos (December 15, 1966) shown below.

CANCER-ASBESTOS LINK REPORTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE:

Exposure to high levels of asbestos dust 20 to 30 years ago is prob.. ly responsible for a 21 percent increase in the death rate among certain workers in three industries using asbestos, according to a study reported by the Public Health Service to a Conference on Asbestos Research in Cincinnati. The excess in deaths above the normal rate was due to cancer of the lung and gastro-intestinal tract and to asbestosis. The death rates were much lower in other industries using asbestos where dust levels were relatively even, even though there was long-term exposure.

"While dust levels have been sharply reduced in the asbestos textile industry, where the excess mortality was found, the finding adds to the growing evidence that asbestos exposure is associated with cancer of the lung," said Dr. Murray C. Brown, chief of the USPHS Division of Occupational Health.

The report was based on research by Dr. Philip Enterline of McGill University and Dr. Mildred Kendrick of USPHS. Their data was derived from Social Security Administration records for 21,755 men who had worked in the three industries and from death certificates.

The conferees agreed on the necessity for a much more concentrated attack on asbestos as an environmental contaminant. High on the list of research priorities were studies of population groups with both heavy and light exposures to asbestos fibers. It was pointed out that it is still not known whether asbestos mineral fibers are vehicles or carriers of carcinogenic chemicals or are active themselves.

The group stressed the need for expanded laboratory animal studies on the effects of different types of asbestos dusts, alone and in combination with various metals and hydrocarbons.

A REMINDER ON MARINITE



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