

## **The Asbestos Information Association/North America**

In recent years, new findings relating prolonged inhalation of asbestos fibers to various occupational health hazards have created understandable public and governmental concern. This concern, nurtured by lack of information on the true nature and extent of these hazards, has at times created an emotional and irrational attitude toward asbestos in all its forms and applications.

Members of most producer and user companies, which have for some time implemented worker-protection procedures, individually attempted to provide facts to the press, government and public about the nature and extent of asbestos health problems and efforts to correct them. However, the industry lacked a single, constantly available source able to provide authoritative information on asbestos-health in the United States and Canada.

This situation was changed with the formation of the ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION/NORTH AMERICA (AIA/NA) in December 1970. Its objectives are:

1. To provide industry-wide information on asbestos and health, and on industry efforts to eliminate existing hazards;
2. To cooperate with governmental agencies in developing and implementing industry-wide standards for worker protection and for the control of asbestos dust emissions into the community air;
3. To exchange information on methods and techniques of asbestos dust control;
4. To correct misleading and uninformed reportage on asbestos-health problems;
5. To publicize the unique benefits and importance of asbestos in protecting human life and property.