FILE NAME: Allied Signal Bendix (ASB)

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Jim Gill UCI. 11-14.

UAW.
(UNITED AUTO WORKERS)

over.

- Windsor deaths in Bendix workers - one was never a smoker.
- dust problem when moving brake assembly materials from one plant to another. - more over.
- more control features being added to machinery at Bendix

Asbestos linked to deaths; WCB orders investigation

June 28/79. BRAKE MECHANICS.

con.

By PAUL PALANGO

A full-scale investigation by the Workmen's Compensation Board will be launched immediately into what are believed to be asbestos-related cancer deaths of three workers at a Windsor automotive company, board chairman Michael Starr said last night.

Mr. Starr said information submitted yesterday by the United Automobile Workers indicates the three men, who have died since 1973, were victims of cancer of the larynx.

The men worked for Bendix Automotive Co., which operates two plants in Windsor — one to produce brake linings, the other to assemble them. They were identified as Henry Bednarick, 57, Nelson Masse, 62, and Edward Rogers, 63. Mr. Starr said he did not know the exact dates the men died.

John Moynahan, president of UAW Local 195, told Mr. Starr the men were long-time Bendix employees and that the union suspects another 20 to 30 employees may have been victims of asbestos-related cancers.

Mr. Starr said the three cases before the board would be considered as claims, and a full-scale probe will be launched to determine if any other cancer victims worked for the company.

"They (union officials) have handed a lot of research data over to us that we haven't yet had time to look at," he said.

One UAW spokesman told the board the union is seeking compensation benefits for widows and survivors of the three workers and any others whose deaths may have resulted from an asbestos-related illness.

Mr. Moynahan complained that Bendix has been unco-operative with the union regarding the asbestos problem.

He also said he is worried and alarmed by company plans to stage an open house Aug. 11, when children will be admitted to the plant. Mr. Moynahan said the union is not sure how safe the plant's asbestos dust levels are.

"We are concerned about children being exposed to them," he said.

Mr. Starr said the board first accepted cancer of the larynx as an industrial disease in May, 1978, and has studied many such cases since then.

Tom Shafer, president and general manager of Bendix's Windsor operations, said the company has had "several cancer-related cases" in the past and was aware the UAW intended to bring some cases to the board's attention.

Mr. Shafer said Bendix has "done a lot in recent years" to improve its asbestos dust control standards.

"We, in fact, are operating well within established limits" for asbestos concentrations, he said.

CBC.
John McQuaker
N. Fillmore.
got my file
on this.