

FILE NAME: Firestone (FIRE)

DATE: 1970 Jan 9

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from URW President Peter Bommarito to Firestone Dir. Ind. Relations J.V. Cairns on Asbestos [BC Ex. 319]

BC Notes: Letter from URW President Peter Bommarito to Firestone Dir. Ind. Relations J.V. Cairns on Asbestos

- Noting LA and Meso hazard
- Req. info on use of asbestos in each plant, incl. IH studies, air sampling tests, and reports on what was done to protect the workers

PETER BOMMARITO, President

KENNETH OLDHAM, Vice President

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UNITED RUBBER, CORK, LINOLEUM AND PLASTIC WORKERS OF AMERICA  
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376-6181

376-6182

376-6183

376-6184

January 9, 1970

Mr. J. V. Cairns, Director  
Industrial Relations  
The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.  
1200 Firestone Parkway  
Akron, Ohio 44317

Dear Mr. Cairns:

This is in reference to an industrial health problem concerning asbestos which has come to my attention recently and about which I am greatly concerned. It is my understanding that there has been extensive, significant evidence developed that there is a direct relationship between the development of lung cancer and occupational exposure to asbestos as well as development of other types of tumors such as pleural and abdominal mesothelioma.

The purpose of this letter is to request that you provide me with the following necessary information which will permit me to determine the extent and nature of the health problem involved and to take the necessary protective action:

1. In what years and in what plants and what departments of each plant has asbestos been handled, processed or used in any form or in any product?
2. What industrial hygiene studies have been made and what air-sampling tests have been carried out to evaluate and determine the concentration of the amount of asbestos dust exposure in the work environment, in each of these departments, in each of the plants, for the years in which asbestos was used as referred to in question number 1?
3. What has the company done to protect the health of the workers?
4. In reference to your plant in New Castle, Indiana, where the employees are represented by UMW Local Union No. 238, I would appreciate receiving a complete payroll listing of all employees since the year 1942 indicating the dates of their employment.

I would like to make it clear that the purpose of this letter also is to call to your attention, if you have not already recognized it,

Pltf Exh

319

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Mr. J. V. Cairns, Director  
Industrial Relations  
Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.

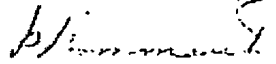
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that asbestos is a serious industrial health problem and prompt corrective measures are necessary to protect the health of the workers.

We are requesting your immediate investigation of this problem and your cooperation in installing the necessary protective measures to safeguard the health of the workers involved.

We would appreciate your prompt response in this matter so we will be in possession of such information to enable us to intelligently discuss this problem during coming negotiations with your company.

Very truly yours,



Peter Borrarito  
International President

PB:jbw  
opeiu-339

cc: Kenneth Oldham  
Ike Gold  
Coordinator Garber  
Directors, Districts 1,2,4,5,7,8  
Field Reps. involved  
Presidents, Locals 7, 100, 138, 186,  
238, 261, 310, 336, 713, 726, 787,  
884, 887  
Earl B. Hathaway, Pres., Firestone  
Tire and Rubber Company