High velocity storms rampage through coastal regions. Emergency responders and military troops operate in dangerous environments. DuPont Safety & Protection is there, in the field. Working against the deadliest byproduct of tornadoes and hurricanes — airborne debris — DuPont Safety & Protection develops the StormRoom™, capable of deflecting a 15-pound two-by-four. Around the globe, DuPont™ Kevlar® and Nomex® brand fibers help protect police officers, firefighters and military personnel. And suits of DuPont™ Tyvek® guard skilled technicians as they labor to free homes and offices from deadly mold. In a dangerous world, DuPont Safety & Protection is devoted to shielding people and saving lives.



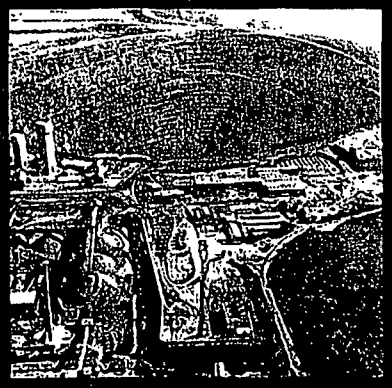
StormRoom™ with Kevlar® Debuts as First Line of Home Defense

When a tornado strikes, the biggest threat to human life isn't the funnel cloud itself — it's the windborne debris the cloud sucks up and throws out as it spins across the countryside. A two-by-four piece of building timber from a damaged or destroyed structure, when propelled by a tornado's 250-mile-per-hour winds, can hit with devastating force. To help people during these natural disasters, DuPont Safety & Protection developed the DuPont™ StormRoom™ with Kevlar®, a residential in-home storm shelter. The key to the strength of the StormRoom™ is the Kevlar® sheathing that is inside reinforced wall panels. A series of tests conducted by an independent laboratory showed that the storm room's engineered panels could deflect a 12-foot, 15-pound two-by-four shot from a cannon. In new home construction, the storm room can easily be integrated into the overall design and even fitted with plumbing and electricity in addition to ventilation. Installed by an authorized building professional, the DuPont™ StormRoom™ also can be added to a new or existing garage with a slab concrete floor.



Spotlight on Science: Minshon Chiou Protects the Officers Who Protect Us

Protective vests are proven to save the lives of law enforcement personnel. But only 55 percent strap on their vests day-in-and-day-out, citing lack of comfort. Minshon Chiou is out to make those officers more comfortable — and safer. At the Spruance site in Richmond, Virginia, he develops new safety and protection applications for DuPont™ Kevlar® brand fiber. Minshon and his team have developed DuPont™ Kevlar® Comfort XLT™ Technology, which will deliver markedly better ballistic performance enabling a vest weight reduction of at least 25 percent. With lighter gear, officers in the future should put on their vests as often as they put on their badges.



DuPont Safety Resources Digs Deep to Boost Mine Safety in South Africa

When South Africa's mammoth Palabora copper mine began transforming from an open-pit to an underground operation, a large number of outside contractors were brought in during construction — contractors whose devotion to safety did not equal Palabora's own. The result was a gradual spike in injuries, especially among contractor personnel. So the mining company turned to DuPont Safety Resources (DSR) to help inculcate a new culture of safety. Beginning in 1999, DSR audited worker behavior, got employees involved in striving for a reduction in injuries and helped Palabora launch a system of safety accreditation for outside contractors. By May 2003, the injury frequency rate at the mine was half of what it had been at the start of DSR's engagement, thanks to the commitment of Palabora's managers, workers and contractors.