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Asbestos Threat - Part 3 of 3

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LAHNH D, KAN—A man who pre-
ceded gully three months ago in the
death of a prison escapee and a
Wichita oilman has escaped from the
maximum security unit of the Larned
State Hospital, officials said today.
A search was underway in central
and western Kansas for Glendal Rid-
der, 28, of Wichita.
Hospital Superintendent Rod Clal-
land said a hacksaw blade was used to
saw through a heavy security screen
and some heavy steel bars on the only
window in Ridder's first floor room.

help in the escape from the building
the building because of the effort re-
quired to saw through the heavy ex-
terior bar and because of the two 15-foot
fences topped with barbed wire that
Ridder then had to scale.
The Kansas Bureau of Investigation
is checking on the possibility, Clelland
said.
Ridder was committed to the state
hospital after entering his plea in
Sedgwick County District Court Sept.
1. He was ordered by Judge Elliot Fry
See BAR Page 3

out with the support of an under-
standing spouse.
But it's stressful, too—so stress-
ful, in fact, that it may tear some
marriages apart.
"Working vice" is one of the most
stressful assignments a police offi-
cer will endure, says Dr. Marshall
Saper, a police psychologist.
"The vice squad officers are
walking around in the cruddier
parts of town, undercover, assum-

ing not only a visual similarity to
the people they're trying to deal
with and get the goods on, but often
a behavioral similarity," Saper
said.
"If they're hanging around bars
they've got to drink. If they hang
around prostitutes, they often have
to react in an appropriate fashion,"
said Saper, who has worked with

a car (on patrol) or in the support
unit (SWAT team). The things in-
volved in those situations in the
street were more dangerous," she
said.
She added, "Prostitutes, I don't
think, carry knives or guns. I don't
worry about a prostitute coming at
him with a gun and shooting him in
the stomach."
Her husband added, "We talk
See PSYCHOLOGICAL on Page 3

Tough Restrictions Don't End Asbestos Threat

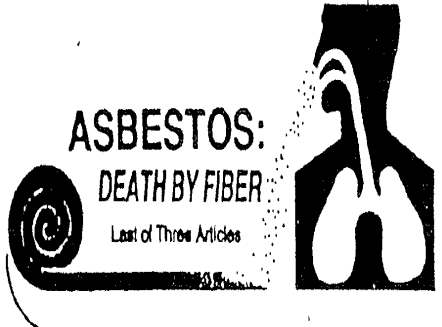
By Rick Lyman
A Member of the Staff

A couple of years ago, inspectors for
the Occupational Safety and Health
Administration were poking around
Kansas City International Airport
when their equipment detected an
unusually high level of asbestos fibers
in the air around the baggage-handling
area.

Charles Adkins, industrial hygienist
for OSHA Region VII in Kansas City,
said it turned out that one terminal at
KCI and half of another were con-
structed using asbestos insulation.

That's not unusual. Thousands of
buildings and ships have been built
this century using asbestos insulation,
asbestos ceiling and floor tiles and as-
bestos wallboard. Most of that con-
struction, however, occurred before
the word got out linking asbestos expo-
sure to cancer and other diseases.

At KCI, the insulation was flaking
off, filling the air in the terminals' low-
est level with microscopic asbestos fi-
bers.



OSHA got together with the city and
the airlines and placed a layer of
sealant over the crumbling insulation,
blocking the particles from escaping
into the atmosphere.

That solved the problem—as far as
KCI was concerned.

What concerns government officials
now is the asbestos insulation and oth-
er asbestos products which may be
contaminating the air in other public

buildings—schools, hospitals, homes,
hotels.

In August, the Department of
Health, Education and Welfare asked
the Environmental Protection Agency
to help determine which of the nation's
public buildings contain asbestos insu-
lation and which of them, if any, pose a
health threat to the occupants.

Wolfgang Brandner is working on
the project for Region VII of the EPA's

toxic and pesticide branch in Kansas
City. He said 31 states now have some
sort of asbestos program aimed at lo-
cating asbestos pollution and correct-
ing it.

Neither Missouri nor Kansas has
such a program, Brandner said, but he
is trying to contact health officials in
those two states and Iowa and Nebras-
ka to set up some sort of program for
testing air samples from all public
buildings.

The first priority, he said, is schools.
Some preliminary air samples have
been taken by Kansas officials, he
said.

Concern over the dangers of asbes-
tos began to gain national attention in
1964, with the release of medical re-
ports linking the microscopic fibers to
the later development of cancer.

The use of asbestos was severely
curtailed in the intervening years. Be-
fore the reports came out, it was com-
mon to find asbestos workers doing
their jobs amid a cloud of white fibers
so thick it limited vision to a few feet.

As the case files on asbestos-linked
disease grew, so did the tide of govern-
ment regulations. On April 8, 1973
OSHA banned the use of asbestos as a
construction material in any con-
centration exceeding 1 percent.

It was a year earlier that OSHA re-
leased its first asbestos standard—
limiting the level of asbestos in the
workplace to no more than an average
of five fibers per cubic centimeter
over an eight hour period. That limit
later was dropped to two fibers, and
there is evidence that it may soon be
dropped again to one-tenth of a fiber
per cubic centimeter.

Also, the Consumer Product Safety
Commission has banned the use of at
least two products because of their as-
bestos content.

"It resulted in a tightening on the
use of asbestos," Adkins said. "It's
just too easy not to use it."

What EPA hopes to do, Brandner
said, is determine whether there is an
asbestos danger in older buildings.

See STUDY on Page 1

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now told us, nobody seemed to be starving. Indeed, everyone seemed quite healthy. I began to walk, alone, up toward the main building at the

"I stayed with her until she asked me to marry her," he said. "She's a manipulative, seductive female. I

answered one of my questions with an obscenity and observed that people did have sex in Jonestown.

tries to stab Congressman Ryan
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☆ Study Calls for Stricter Asbestos Rules

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and, if necessary, draft regulations to do something about it.

The alternatives are limited, he said—the asbestos can either be removed or sealed. In most cases it probably would be sealed, he said. It's cheaper that way.

"The only problem I can see is who's going to pay for it," he said. "Thus far the EPA has said it isn't going to put any money into it."

All 31 state asbestos programs are financed either by the states or by local governments.

OSHA has no full-scale program to measure asbestos fiber content at every workplace in the nation, Adkins said, but it is one of the things OSHA inspectors test for on each inspection.

It's part of what OSHA calls its Target Health Hazards Program. Under the program, each workplace inspection includes testings for asbestos, carbon monoxide, cotton dust, lead and silica.

Also, Adkins said, if workers are afraid they're being exposed to a high level of asbestos, OSHA inspectors will come out and take air samples.

Earlier this year, the State of New Jersey petitioned EPA to get air guidelines for asbestos. New Jersey is one of the nation's leading producers of asbestos products.

One of the problems government scientists encounter is that in many ur-

ban areas in the nation there is a high level of asbestos fibers normally in the air—what is known as a "background level" of the fiber.

Also, many states have gravel roads made up of rocks that are high in asbestos fibers—and a good breeze can blow the fibers loose and into the atmosphere.

"In some parts of the country, the damn ground is hazardous," an EPA official said.

There was a case a few years ago, Adkins said, of a paint factory in St. Louis that was importing bags of asbestos fibers from Louisiana for use in heat-resistant paint. The asbestos was being shipped in porous bags, similar to potato sacks, and every time a sack was bumped it sent up a billowy cloud of white asbestos fibers.

Ironically, the bags and contents had been purchased from the federal government.

The OSHA regional office also has undertaken a study of brake shops. Asbestos is used in brake linings, as it is in many friction products.

Officials feared that workers in brake shops, while grinding down the linings and fitting them in place, were being exposed to high levels of asbestos fibers.

Adkins said OSHA inspectors did find evidence of the fibers in the air, but not in excess of the current national standards.

However, in December 1978 the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health published a "Revised Recommended Asbestos Standard."

It was NIOSH, the research arm of OSHA, that recommended the current standard six years ago. But after further testing, NIOSH scientists said in 1978 that the standard should be lowered to .1 fiber per cubic centimeter.

That drastic cut is necessitated, according to the report, by studies that provide "conclusive evidence that exposure to asbestos fibers causes cancer and asbestosis in man."

The report continues, "Evaluation of all available human data provides

no evidence for a threshold or for a 'safe' level of asbestos exposure."

As a result, NIOSH recommends, the standard "should be set at the lowest level detectable by available analytical techniques."

That approach, NIOSH said, is consistent with the most recent recommendations for other carcinogens and would "also prevent the development of asbestosis."

Thus far, OSHA hasn't acted on NIOSH's suggestion, though officials said a lowering of the asbestos standard is almost inevitable.

"With asbestos we're 20 years behind in controlling it, and we'll be seeing the effects for another 20 years," Adkins said.

Hunter Falls on Arrow, Bleeds to Death

HINKLEY, Minn. (AP)—A 17-year-old hunter bled to death after he fell out of a tree onto one of his arrows, Pine County sheriff's officials said Monday.

The victim was identified as David John Akerson of Grundy, Minn.

A sheriff's spokesman said the arrow became embedded in the youth's leg when he fell Saturday and severed a small artery.

When the young man pulled the arrow out of his leg, he began to bleed heavily, went into shock and died, the spokesman said.

"If he'd left the arrow in, he'd probably be alive today," said the spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

Akerson was hunting with his father and two brothers in St. Croix State Park when the accident occurred.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said the death was the second bow-and-arrow casualty ever recorded in Minnesota.

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