FILE NAME: Newspaper & Magazine Articles (NMA)

DATE: 1970 Apr 16

DOC#: NMA140

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Athens Messenger Newspaper Article - Pollution & Asbestos

THE ATHENS MESSENGER
ATHENS, OHIO
(e) 17,000 (S) 18,000

APR 16 1970

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Pollution And Asbestos

As a side effect of a course to teach building maintenance men how to operate oil burners and incinerators to control air pollution, the U.S. Public Health Service found that asbestos dust has become an urgent problem. Buildings under demolition raise asbestos dust and should be enclosed, it said.

Other asbestos dust is coming from asbestos cement sprayed as a fire retardent. Health authorities had found that "inhalation of even small concentrations of asbestos fiber by construction workers (and even their families) results in asbestosis and lung cancer."

The fight for better environmental quality expands the more we learn about it. We had hardly begun to regard automobile emissions as the worst air irritant, when we learned about asbestosis and its effect on lunger cancer

Asbestosis is a specialized danger to construction workers, as black lung is to coal miners. But all these irritants tell us that a better environment is a much bigger fight than we had understood when it began.