

• Will the government provide examinations or treatment, or will the government pay for these? What about insurance coverage?

Medical services related to asbestos exposure are available through the government only for certain groups of eligible individuals. In general, medical services are available through non-governmental doctors and facilities and paid for by the individuals affected, unless they are covered by private or government health insurance programs. Check your policies. Medicare will reimburse people with symptoms of asbestos-related diseases for the costs of appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

Victims of asbestos-related disease also may qualify for financial aid, including medical payments, under state worker compensation laws. Eligibility requirements vary from state to state, so contact the state worker compensation program in the state where last exposure occurred.

If exposure resulted from employment in a federal agency (military or civilian), those affected be covered for medical expenses and other compensation by the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).

Shipyard private employer employees may be covered under the *Longshoremen and Harbor Workers Compensation Act*. For information about eligibility for these two compensation programs, contact the U.S. Department of labor, Office of Workers Compensation Program, Employment Standards Administration, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

Military and eligible dependents may receive health care at any Department of Defense medical facility. If no such facility is available within 40 miles of home, care may be obtained at a Veterans Administration or Public Health Service hospital. Where no federal facility is available, seek care at a civilian facility under the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). Those more than 65 years of age must obtain medical care through Medicare.

Former military who believe they may have a service-related

medical problem, can inquire about care at a Veterans Administration facility or telephone the local Veterans Administration office.

Workers also may wish to contact their international unions or the Industrial Union or Metal Trades Departments of the AFL-CIO, 815 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006 for information on other sources of medical help and insurance matters.

For information about non-occupational exposure from foods, drugs, and cosmetic products possibly contaminated with asbestos particles, write to Consumer Inquiries, FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, HFJ-10, Rockville, MD 20857.

For questions about the potential hazards of commercial products, contact CPSC at (800) 638-2666 or (800) 492-2937.

Inquiries about air and water contamination should be made to the Public Information Center, PM-215, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, DC 20460.

Cancer Information Services (CIS) offices around the nation provide toll-free telephone answers to questions about cancer and other asbestos-related diseases, their causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Check with local telephone operators for the nearest CIS office.

For further information from labor or industry sources, contact:

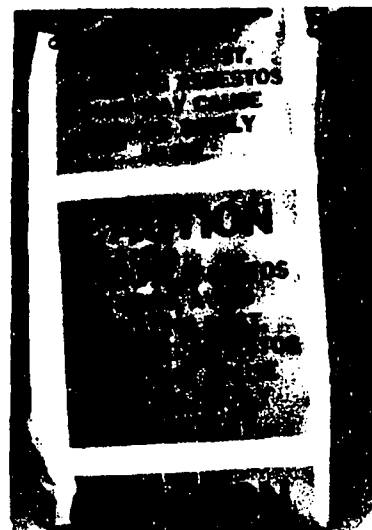
Labor—international union, or the Industrial Union or Metal Trades Departments of the AFL-CIO, 815-16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006;

Industry—Asbestos Information Association, North America, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

Other sources of information on lung disease, cancer, and how to quit smoking are provided by local offices of the American Lung Association and the American Lung Society. These organizations have offices throughout the United States. □

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Asbestos Exposure—What It Means; What to Do, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 78-1594. National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD 20014.



This imprinted polyethylene bag is a workable solution to the problem of labeling asbestos waste, in conformance with OSHA regulation 1910.1001 (formerly .93a), and aids in complying with EPA Emission Standard 61.22. (Photo: Courtesy of Nancel Enterprises, Inc.).

Asbestos Exposure—A Desk Reference for Communicators, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 78-1622. National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD 20014.

Standard on Worker Exposure to Asbestos, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Office of Information, Washington, DC 20210.

Cancer and the Worker, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 E. 63rd St., New York 10021. (\$2).

Good Practices Manual, Clearinghouse for Occupational Safety and Health Information, NIOSH, 4667 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati 45226.

Sprayed Asbestos-Containing Materials in Buildings, Standards Development Branch, EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

"Asbestos," NATIONAL SAFETY NEWS, National Safety Council, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60611. Vol. 108, No. 2, August 1973, pp. 54-60. Also available as a reprint; see page 128 of this issue.

RECOMMENDED READING

USPHS/NIOSH Membrane Filter Method for Evaluating Airborne Asbestos Fibers (NIOSH Report No. 79-127). NIOSH Publications Dissemination, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati 45226. The report describes the recommended method for sampling and evaluating airborne asbestos fibers. The report details the equipment and procedures for collecting, mounting, sizing, and counting asbestos fibers on cellulose ester membrane filters for the evaluation of personal samples.