

publicized not only the relatively high incidence of lung cancer among asbestos workers,^{10/} but also the very startling statistics showing the synergistic effect of cigarette smoking and asbestos exposure.^{11/} While there is some disagreement as to the exact figures, it is now well recognized that a smoking asbestos worker has a far, far greater chance of developing lung cancer than a non-smoking and non-asbestos worker. For example, in a recent study, it was found that the death rate per 100,000 from lung cancer was 11 for those with no history of exposure to asbestos, 58 for non-smoking asbestosis workers, while in the case of asbestos workers who smoked, it soared to 641.

Incidentally, there seems to be no evidence that smoking increases the risk of mesothelioma among asbestos workers.

There are other diseases which some would classify as "asbestos-related". These include cancer of the gastrointestinal tract and other diseases. However, as I have mentioned, the medical research in these areas has not progressed to the point where any meaningful conclusions can be drawn.

^{10/} Selikoff, I. J., et al, Asbestos Exposure and Neoplasia, J. Am. Med. Assn., 188, 22 (1964).

^{11/} Selikoff, I. J. and Lee, D. H. K., "Asbestos and Disease", Academic Press, N. Y., 1978, Chapter 11.