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Asbestos Threat - Part 3 of 3

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**LARKIN, KAN.**—A man who prided himself on being a "tough" three months ago in the death of a prison escapee and a Wichita woman 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 Glenard Ridder, 26, of Wichita.

Hospital Superintendent Rod Clalund said a hatchet 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.

Ridder was committed to the state hospital after entering his plea in Sedgewick County District Court Sept. 1. He was ordered by Judge Elliott Fry.

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out with the support of an under- standing spouse.

But it's stressful, too—an stressful, in fact, that it may tear some marriages apart.

"Working vice" is one of the most stressful assignments a police officer 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 respect in an appropriate fashion," said Saper, who has worked with a criminal patrol or in the support unit (SWAT team). The things involved 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 PSYCHOMAGAZINE on Page 3

# Tough Restrictions Don't End Asbestos Threat

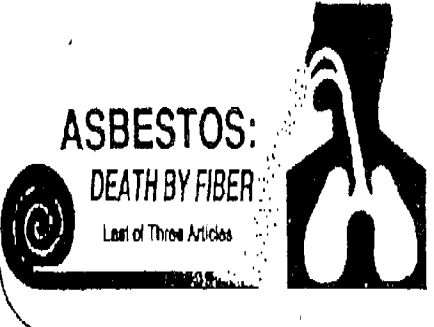
By Rick Lyman  
A Member of the Staff

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 areas.

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 constructed 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 asbestos wallboard. Most of that construction, however, occurred before the world got out linking asbestos exposure to cancer and other diseases.

At KCI, the insulation was flaking off, filling the air in the terminals' low level with microscopic asbestos fibers.



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 other asbestos products which may be contaminating the air in other public

buildings—schools, hospitals, stores, 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 insulation 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 locating asbestos pollution and correcting 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 Nebraska 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 asbestos began to gain national attention in 1964, with the release of medical reports linking the microscopic fibers to the later development of cancer.

The use of asbestos was severely curtailed in the intervening years. Before the reports came out, it was common to find asbestos workers doing their jobs until 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 government regulations. On April 8, 1973 OSHA banned the use of asbestos as a construction material in any construction exceeding 1 percent.

It was a year earlier that OSHA released 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 asbestos 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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...not two or, 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 obliquity and observed that people did have sex in Jonestown.

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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 silicosis.

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 1976 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 1976 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 Akenson 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.

Akenson 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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