

About 200,000 people will die from asbestos, a journal claims.

The deaths, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), will occur in the United States during the next 40 years. Dr. Irving Selikoff, director of environmental sciences at New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine, told the journal that public health authorities were doing very little to regulate the widespread use of asbestos in the U.S. He said there was no truly effective treatment for asbestos-related diseases, which include several forms of cancer. Selikoff said that 700,000 tons of asbestos were used each year in products for schools, cars and homes.

\$1.8 Million Settles Suits On Asbestos

Cleveland — (AP) — A \$1.8 million settlement was reached yesterday on claims filed against 17 corporations by 10 insulation installers who became ill and relatives of 16 workers who died after inhaling asbestos, according to lawyers for the workers and relatives.

Lawyer Robert E. Sweeney said the firms agreed to pay a total of \$1,840,000 to the workers and their families to settle a series of federal court suits filed since 1972. The amount that each company will pay each worker or family has yet to be worked out, he said.

U.S. District Court Judge John M. Manos had conducted pretrial hearings for more than 1½ years on the suits, which were eventually consolidated into one case that was to have gone to trial next month.

The firms include Johns Manville Products Corp., GAF Corp., Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corp., Celotex Corp., Raybestos Manhattan Corp. and Flintkote Corp.

Sweeney said the insulation installers and their relatives claimed that the companies failed to take adequate steps to protect the workers from asbestos inhalation and exposure, which he said can cause lung cancer, abdominal cancer and rectal cancer.

Asbestos, which is mined and crushed, is widely used as binder and insulator for many products.

All the companies in the case have removed asbestos from their products and replaced it with compounds such as fiberglass, said Thomas W. White, another lawyer for the workers and their families.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1979

GREENSBURG, PA. 15601

Nicely Safeguard Project Initiated

By LANCE KRISTAN
Tribune-Review Staff Writer

A KRC Research Corp. crew is expected to complete work at the Nicely Elementary School later today in an attempt to contain asbestos fibers emitted into the air from damaged ceilings.

The New Jersey firm, hired by the district this week for the emergency project, will continue work at the Metzgar Elementary School during the weekend and apply a special sealant to the building's hallway ceilings.

Workers wearing protective clothing yesterday began sealing off the work area at Nicely. On the doors to the entrance to the school, signs sternly warned that protective measures be taken before entering the building.

The signs read: "Asbestos dust hazard. Wear assigned protective equipment. Do not remain in area unless your work requires it. Breathing asbestos dust may be hazardous to you health."

Air quality tests will be conducted prior to the application of the sealant at Metzgar to discern if there is asbestos in the air. But unlike Nicely, the ceilings at the Metzgar school have not been damaged.

Greensburg Salem School Superintendent Robert Dovey said Thursday that the school district will hold to its original plans to open both schools Monday. The Nicely school, the focus of the controversy, has been closed since Wednesday to permit work in the building to begin.

Dovey said that district's consultant on the asbestos problem, Dr. Nurtan Esmen, will conduct sophisticated air quality tests at both schools on either Monday or Tuesday of next week to determine the effectiveness of the sealant.

"We want to conduct the tests while the children are in school," Dovey said. Parents of Nicely students have argued that the testing must be done under normal classroom conditions.

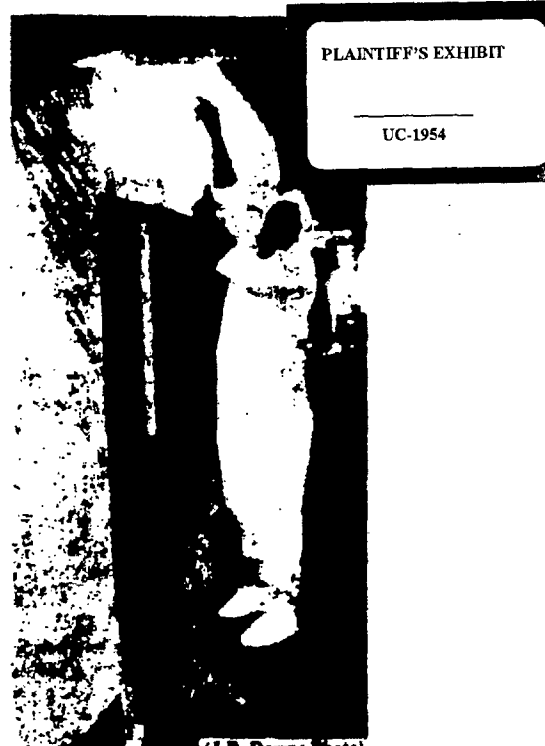
Dovey said Esmen was requested to perform the air quality assessment largely in response to parents' objection that tests conducted by KRC Research Corp. would not be impartial. He said that Esmen's findings will be made available five days following the test.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Greensburg Salem Education Association said yesterday that the teachers union is "satisfied" with measures being taken by administrative officials to correct the problem.

Joseph Dovyak, a teacher at the Metzgar Elementary School and president of the association, said that his concern about the effect of asbestos on health had been expressed to the school administration.

"Nothing formally has been stated, but we have been in contact with Dr. Dovey," Dovyak said. "The teachers have knowledge of the asbestos danger," he said.

"If the measures taken by the district are for the benefit of the students, they are for the benefit of teachers, too," Dovyak said.



PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-1954

(J.R. Downes Photo)
Hallway Prepared