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Ford Motor Company

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November 2, 1970

Mrs. M. Manning, Executive Director
Girl Scouts of Metropolitan Detroit
153 E. Elizabeth
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Manning:

This is to call your attention to a potentially hazardous activity suggested in the Girl Scout Manual entitled: "Moreabouts for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders." On page 43 of this manual is a suggestion for making candlestick holders from asbestos dough and on page 64 is a recipe for the asbestos modeling material.

There is extensive literature in medical and environmental health journals which indicate a relationship between exposure to asbestos dust and serious lung diseases. I am attaching copies of two articles that you may find interesting which survey some of these findings: (1) Paul Broder, "A Reporter at Large -- The Magic Mineral," The New Yorker, October 12, 1968; and (2) I. J. Selikoff, "Asbestos," Environment, Vol. 11, March 1969. Incidentally, I have brought these passages in the manual to Prof. Selikoff's attention. Prof. Selikoff, who is Director of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York, is a recognized worker in the field of asbestos disease epidemiology.

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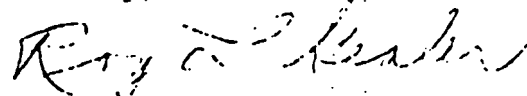
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In view of the possible danger of exposure to asbestos dust, you may wish to recommend that reference to asbestos modeling material be deleted from future printings of this (or any other) manual, and that cautionary information be disseminated to appropriate Girl Scout leadership.

Sincerely,



Roy L. Gealer, Ph.D.
Chemical Engineering Department
Scientific Research Staff

RLG:ed

cc: Joseph H. Brinton, Executive Director
Boy Scouts of America Detroit Area Council,
1776 W. Warren, Detroit, Mich. 48208

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