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There is no question that asbestos can cause severe health problems. Unfortunately, these news stories tend to overstate the problem and leave the impression that anyone who works with asbestos is bound to fall victim to lung disease. To put the problem in perspective the following two facts need to be recognized:

1. The persons whose injury has been reported in the newspapers mostly worked in asbestos mines and mills or as full-time insulation workers. The lung disease among them is a result of exposure to asbestos many years ago when typical fiber levels were continuously higher than they are now--and many, many times the levels now permitted under OSHA.
2. Among persons thus exposed there is a detectable increase in asbestos and lung cancer, as compared to the general population, but still only a small percentage of these workers have been affected.

Asbestos is an ingredient in some Chevron Asphalt products. The Corporation Safety Division has made checks of asbestos levels in our plants. The vast majority of the air samples have shown levels within safe limits. Where levels are over the established limits we are instituting controls to bring the fiber count down.

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