FILE NAME: Drywall Spackling Compounds (DWSC)

DATE: 1973 Jan 3

DOC#: DWSC004

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine to the Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades

MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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...nt of Community Medicine

January 3, 1973

Mr. S. Frank Raftery, General President
Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
United Union Building
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Raftery:

I regret that I do not have a very happy report concerning initial findings in our examinations of tapers in New York City.

With the cooperation of Mr. John Alfarone and Local 1974 of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, we examined 17 members of the Local. Our concern, of course, was whether the dusts inhaled at their work (particularly asbestos) might be associated with lung damage.

The x-ray studies showed definite fibrosis to be present in a proportion of the men. These results should be evaluated with the realization that x-rays always under-represent the amount of scarring to be present and that most damage first makes its appearance 20 or more years after onset of work.

The following table summarizes the findings in the small sample of men so far examined.

Years from onset of taping work	Number examined	X-ray evidence of fibrosis	
		Number	Percent
0 - 9	0		
10 - 19	10	5	50%
20 - 29	7	4	59%

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT SY-1

x-ray changes are not unlike those seen among asbestos insulation workers with similar work experience.

	Local 1974 - Tapers		Locals 12 & 32 - Insulation Workers	
Years from onset of work	Number Examined	Percent Fibrosis	Number Examined	Percent Fibrosis
0-9	0	-	346	10.4
10-19	10	50%	379	44.1
20-29	7	59%	77	72.8
30-39	-	-	194	87.1
40+	-	-	121	94.2
	17		1,117	

Of course, no conclusions can be drawn from such few data. Nevertheless, even these limited experiences suggest that a problem of serious proportions may be in the offing. Among insulation workers in the construction industry, few cancers occur in the first twenty years. After this mark is reached, cancer and pneumoconiosis become serious hazards. In the period 1967-1971, for example, almost half of all deaths were due to cancer of one type or another, with 20% of deaths due to lung cancer alone.

Apprehension has been heightened by another observation. A member of Local 798, Mr. S. Esposito, was found 19 months ago to have lung cancer, and the affected lung was removed. Analysis of the tissues showed a great deal of asbestos, with literally billions of small, fine fibers present, similar to the numbers found in asbestos insulation workers' lungs. (Unfortunately, despite the operation, Mr. Esposito died seven months ago.)

You may be assured of our full cooperation in such measures you believe will be of assistance in promoting the health of your members.

Sincerely yours,

Irving J. Selikoff, M.D.
Professor
Director, Environmental Sciences Laboratory

IJS:df
cc:Mr. James Wolford
Mr. John Alfarone
Mr. Sheldon R. Samuels
Mr. Jacob Clayman
Mr. Andrew T. Haas

and spackle compounds

Manufacturer	Material	Chrysotile Asbestos	Quartz	Mica	Talc	Other
U.S. Gypsum A	Tape compound	+	0	+	0	+
U.S. Gypsum B	Tape compound	+	0	+	0	+
U.S. Gypsum C	"Nurobond"	+	0	+	0	+
U.S. Gypsum D	Jointing compound	+	0	+	0	+
U.S. Gypsum E	"Redmix"	+	+	+	0	+
U.S. Gypsum F	Wall board seal	+	+	+	0	+
U.S. Gypsum G	Taping compound	+	+	+	+	+
Muralco	Spackle	+	+	+	+	+
N.A.	Spackle	+	+	+	0	+
N.A.	Spackle	0	+	0	+	0
N.A.	Plaster board	0	+	+	0	+
N.A.	Plaster board	0	+	+	0	+
N.A.	Tile setters cement	0	+	+	0	+

Techniques utilized: optical microscopy, electron microscopy, x-ray diffraction

ackle and
aping compounds:

Chrysotile asbestos	9/10
Quartz	6/10
Mica	9/10
Talc	2/10

Confidential

Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
of the City University of New York

January 23, 1974

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