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S.F. Concern Over Danger of Asbestos

The San Francisco Department of Public Health, concerned about the statistical link between inhaling asbestos fibers and lung cancer, will ask the city Bureau of Building Inspection to restrict use of the material.

Dr. Thelma K. Dritz, head of public health's disease control and adult health bureau, said yesterday that local figures show "inhalation does lead to a greater incidence of lung cancer and some of the rarer cancers."

Asbestos, Dr. Dritz said, has a vast number of industrial uses, ranging from fire-proofing to insulation.

She said the Health Department plans to meet with the building inspection advisory board on July 14.

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world-wide conservation group to encourage research into the environmental effects of marine activities such as shipping, shoreline development and ocean resource exploitation. Its headquarters are at 680 Beach street here.

N.Y. Acts Against Asbestos Threat

New York

Mayor John V. Lindsay ordered a halt yesterday in the spraying of asbestos, suspected as a cause of cancer, at all city-operated construction sites.

"There is an extraordinarily high correlation between the amount of asbestos inhaled and the contraction of cancer," said John Leo, spokesman for the city's Environmental Protection Administration. "The correlation is the same as that for smoking."

Leo said Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai Hospital, who has been studying the problem since 1953, found that one out of five asbestos workers in the New York area dies of lung cancer.

"And you can't get rid of it," Leo said. "Once it's been inhaled it stays on the lungs forever."

Selikoff told a city hearing in May that everyone in New York City has some asbestos on his lungs. He said there was no way to avoid it in New York.

Asbestos is a covering which insulates steel girders at construction sites. It is also used on auto brakes and cars, in addition to exhaust fumes, are also thought to pollute the atmosphere with asbestos.

"The problem with cars," Leo said, "is that its very hard to measure how much asbestos is thrown off. At construction sites, it's much easier."

Asbestos workers suffer chest and lung diseases at ten times the rate of the general population, Leo said.

On April 10, the city ordered private contractors to cover areas being sprayed with tarpaulins to cut down asbestos dust.

Leo said the Lindsay administration is still debating whether to extend the asbestos ban to private contractors

United Press