

## **THE PERILS OF ASBESTOS EXPOSURE**

For years, exposure to asbestos was common in many industries, including on construction sites, in shipyards, in factories, and in automotive repair shops. Asbestos was eventually banned for most uses because it causes a number of different kinds of health problems for those who have been exposed to it. Of these, among the most serious are Asbestosis and Mesothelioma.

Asbestosis is a respiratory disease caused by inhaling asbestos fibers. It is a disease that develops slowly, taking between 10 and 40 years to develop. Because of this slow onset, victims often don't know that they have it until years after they were exposed.

The inhaled asbestos fibers irritate the lungs, causing an inflammation. In an attempt to protect themselves, the lungs form a kind of scar tissue around the fiber, called "fibrosis." The fibrosis affects the victim's lung function, leading to shortness of breath and the feeling of not being able to catch one's breath. The lungs are progressively less able to take in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide. Among the other effects of asbestos exposure are the presence of a chronic cough, the inability to perform as much physical activity due to a lack of oxygen, chronic chest pain, and congestive heart failure. Over the longer term, Asbestosis can lead to disability or even death.

Before its symptoms become pronounced, Asbestosis may be detected only by using X-rays or CT scans of the lungs, which will show the scarring and thickening of the lung tissue that is characteristic of the disease. Many people are thus not diagnosed until it is too late, because until they have symptoms, they see no need to have their lungs examined.

Asbestosis can also lead to a more serious cancer known as "Mesothelioma", caused almost exclusively from exposure to asbestos. The early symptoms of Mesothelioma are often mistaken for lung cancer. The only definitive diagnosis is made through chest x-rays and lung

biopsies.

If you learn that you or a loved one suffer from Asbestosis or Mesothelioma, it is important to consult with a qualified lawyer. Because of the length of time it generally takes for Mesothelioma to develop, asbestos manufacturers have set aside billions of dollars for restitution to victims of exposure to asbestos. Filing a claim can help you pay for your medical expenses, recoup lost wages and even assist in providing for your family. Proof of a claim requires gathering complex medical evidence and using it to prove the connection between the asbestos exposure and the injuries suffered.

Our office has a proven track record achieving favorable settlements for Mesothelioma victims in Casper and throughout the state of Wyoming. If you or a loved one has been recently diagnosed with Mesothelioma, we can assist in filing your claim and make sure you get the compensation to which you are entitled. For additional information, please see our website [www.InjuryLawFirm.net](http://www.InjuryLawFirm.net)

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**Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice. You must consult with an attorney for the application of the law to your specific circumstances.**

**R. Michael Shickich is the founder of the Injury Law Firm™ located in Casper. The focus of his practice is personal injury and wrongful death cases.**

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THANKS FOR THE REFERRALS

Despite this modern age of marketing and advertising, the best source of our new business is word of mouth. We are grateful that many of our clients and friends feel confident in recommending our firm. Unfortunately, when people need a good lawyer, they often do not know where to turn. If you or someone you know has been injured and needs legal help, call us.