Asbestos Exposure Kills Mechanic

At the age of 52, a mechanic died of mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. He had worked with automotive brake and clutch parts containing asbestos.

The workers’ compensation authority for the region where he lived had accepted his claim for asbestos-related illness.

His death is one of many linked to workplace asbestos exposure. Asbestos, a naturally-occurring fibrous mineral, has been widely used in products because of its insulating and fireproofing qualities. When disturbed, the material breaks into small fibers that become imbedded in the lungs, prompting cancerous growths. Chronic illnesses attributed to asbestos exposure are asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. Delay between exposure and onset of the disease can be 20 to 40 years.