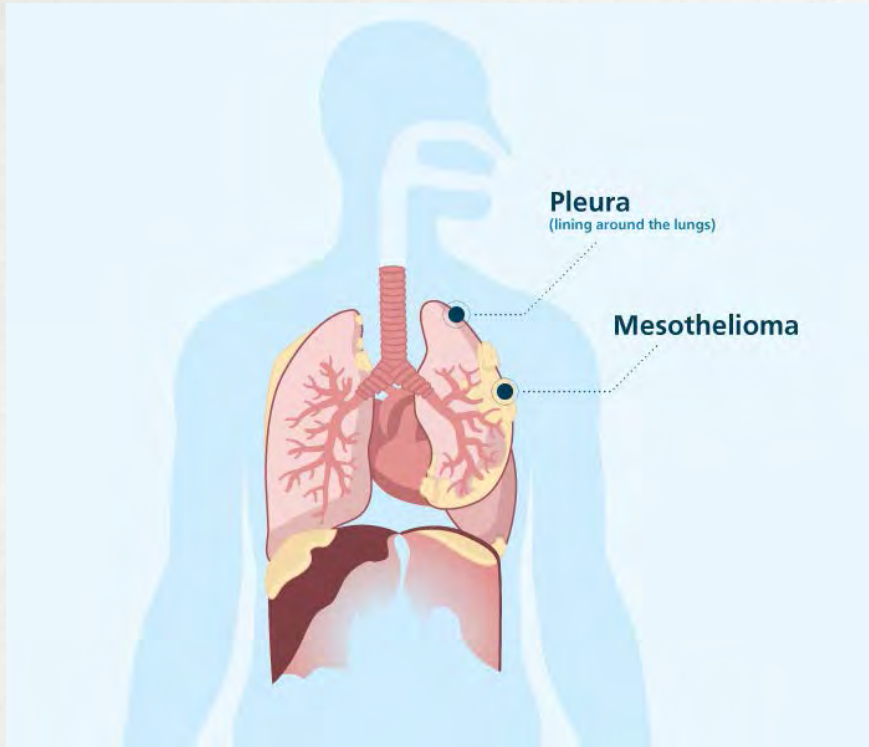


MESOTHELIOMA: A PRIMER



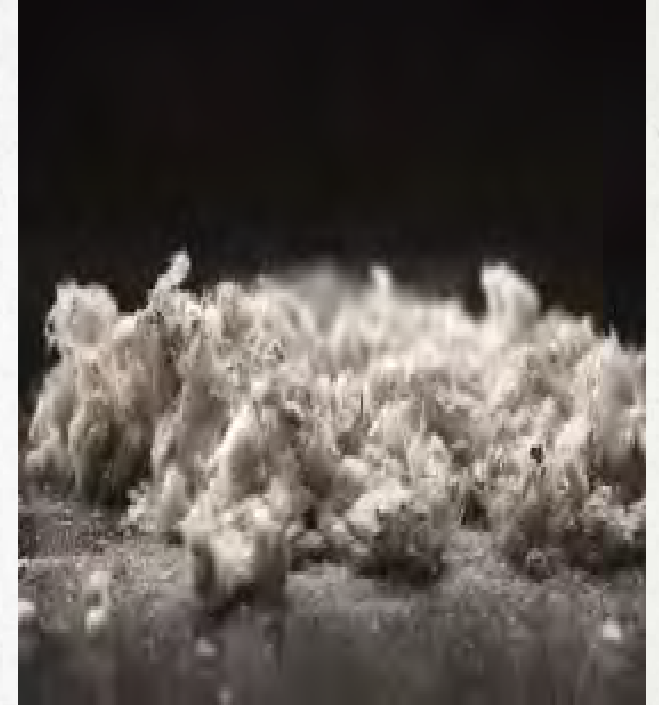
WHAT IS MESOTHELIOMA?



- A cancer that occurs in the thin layer of tissue that protects organs such as the lungs. It is aggressive, deadly, and typically not treatable.
- Most common form is **pleural mesothelioma** which impacts the chest and lung (accounts for 75% of diagnoses). Other less common forms are **peritoneal mesothelioma** (abdomen, 20% of diagnoses), and **pericardial mesothelioma** (heart, less than 5%).
- Long latency period, usually between 30 – 40 years.
- Asbestos is the only known cause.

ASBESTOS

- Asbestos is a generic term for a group of six mineral silicates that can be separated into thin, durable threads for use in commercial and industrial applications.
- Until 1975, used in building and construction industries for insulation, roofing, fireproofing, ceiling/floor tiles, and sound absorption; shipbuilders to insulate boilers and pipes; and automotive industry in brakes.
- Workers involved in these industries have greatest risk of exposure as well as inhabitants of older structures.
- Known carcinogen linked with mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, and other non-malignant lung disorders.

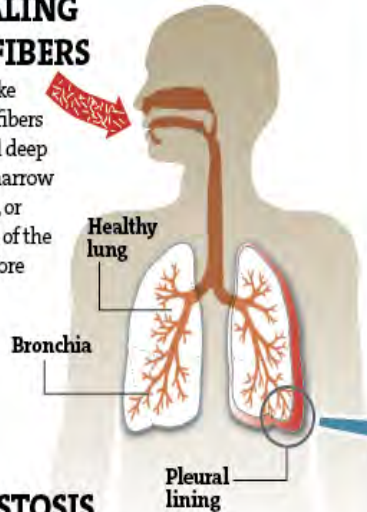


MESOTHELIOMA'S IMPACT ON THE LUNGS

ASBESTOS AND LUNG DISEASE

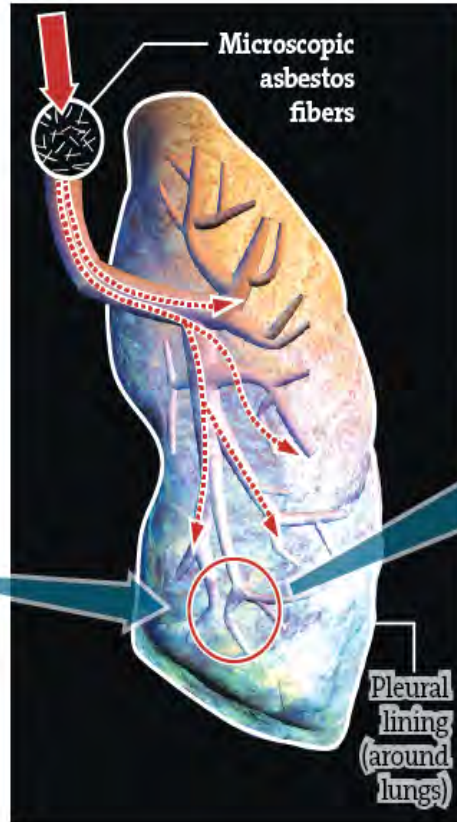
1 INHALING THE FIBERS

Needle-like asbestos fibers can travel deep into the narrow branches, or bronchia, of the lungs before sticking.



2 ASBESTOSIS

Accumulation of fibers causes inflammation and scarring of the airways. That leads to chronic coughing and chest pain — symptoms of asbestosis.



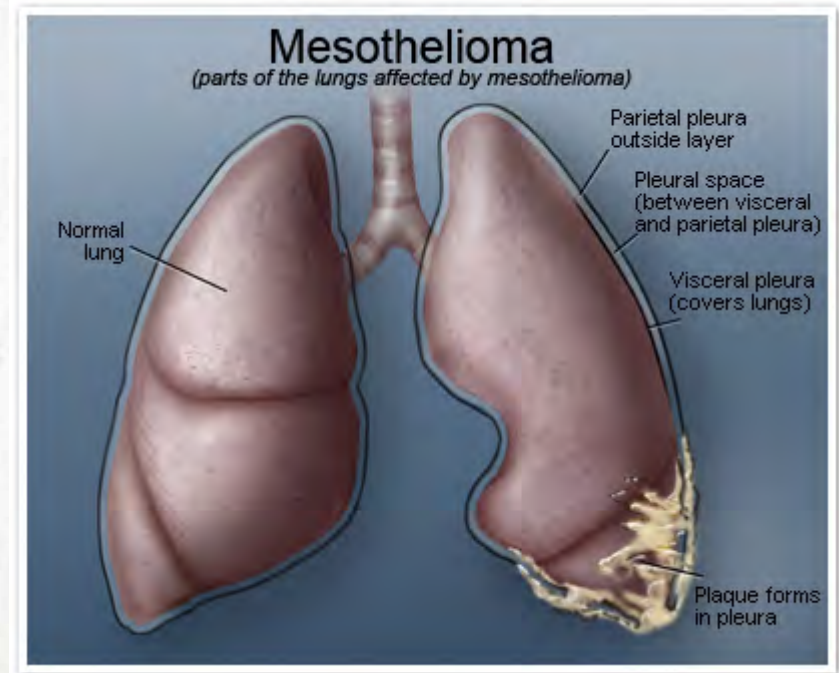
3 MESOTHELIOMA

The pleural lining becomes inflamed and plaque builds up, restricting breathing. The condition may progress to mesothelioma, cancer of the pleural lining.



Source: National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, NY Times, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

MARK BOSWELL and DAVE SHAFFER • Star Tribune



INVESTIGATING A POTENTIAL MESO CASE

- **Time is of the essence!** Speak with your client ASAP to get all the facts you need to prosecute your case and get testimony on the record.
 - Confirm diagnosis via pathology report or other medical records identifying presence of asbestos fibers in client.
 - Target potential defendants and identify asbestos-containing products.
 - Seek corroborative evidence from client's co-workers
 - If needed, consult with appropriate experts on causation and other matters.
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