

Did Your Job as a Firefighter Expose You to Asbestos?



Some former firefighters may have considered asbestos an ally in fighting fires. Asbestos, a naturally occurring mineral, is non-flammable and prior to 1980, it was used in many different products to aid in fire resistance. From insulation to roofing materials, asbestos-containing products could be found throughout commercial and residential buildings in the U.S.

- Unfortunately, when asbestos-containing products are disturbed or damaged—like in a fire—tiny, needle-like fibers can be released into the air and inhaled by anyone close by. Inhalation of those asbestos fibers is what causes mesothelioma, a deadly cancer.
- There are a number of different ways in which firefighters may have been exposed to asbestos. Fighting fires at residential homes is a common source of exposure, but some firefighters could have battled blazes occurring in commercial or industrial areas. Industrial firefighters may have run into burning petrochemical facilities, shipyards, or manufacturing plants—all buildings which could have been built with asbestos-containing materials like floor tiles or insulation. The same buildings may have also been filled with asbestos-containing products that were used in day-to-day operations like heavy machinery or hand tools. In the past, even some of the protective gear that firefighters wore to shield themselves from flame and heat was made with asbestos-containing materials.



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- Some firefighters may have unknowingly brought asbestos into their homes, putting their family members in danger of secondhand exposure. Did you ever come home after fighting a fire and shake white dust off of your jacket or hair? That may have been asbestos dust. Asbestos fibers are so fine they can easily be carried home on clothing and in hair, placing others at risk of inhaling the deadly fibers.

Check out our list of industries that may have exposed firefighters to asbestos. Don't ignore this list if you ever worked as a firefighter—especially before 1980.

- Chemical
- Longshore/Maritime
- Military
- Railroad
- Shipyard
- Utilities

MESOTHELIOMA COMPENSATION

If you or a loved one worked in any of these industries, you may be at risk of developing mesothelioma or another asbestos-related disease. Make sure your doctor is aware of your work and military history, as this could play an integral part in confirming a mesothelioma diagnosis and any compensation you may be entitled to.

Companies knew about the dangers of asbestos but continued to manufacture and sell asbestos-containing products. In short, they put profits ahead of people. For many manufacturers no longer in business, special court-ordered trusts—estimated at over \$30 Billion—have been set up to provide compensation for mesothelioma victims and their families.

Sokolove Law is a trusted mesothelioma law firm, and a leading provider of legal services that help victims of asbestos exposure file asbestos claims. **For more than 30 years, Sokolove Law has helped bring justice and compensation to thousands of mesothelioma victims—and their families.**



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