

# FBU ASBESTOS DATABASE

## What is the FBU Asbestos Database?

The FBU Asbestos Database is an opportunity for all FBU members and former members to record details of exposure to asbestos in their work in order to help protect their rights and entitlements in years to come.

## Why should I be interested in the Database?

Until recent years asbestos was widely used in construction and industry. It was and still is present in many buildings at which Firefighters attend emergency calls and where control personnel work(ed). Also, until they were withdrawn from use many Firefighters will have used asbestos gloves, blankets and other safety equipment.

## Conditions caused by exposure to asbestos includes

- PLEURAL PLAQUES  
changes in the lung showing evidence of asbestos exposure which can be seen on x-rays.
- MESOTHELIOMA  
a particular form of cancer almost always associated with exposure to asbestos and always fatal.
- PLEURAL THICKENING  
may not be disabling or produce significant physical symptoms but is the cause of great anxiety.

- ASBESTOSIS  
a progressive crippling respiratory disease.
- LUNG CANCER  
certain forms only.

Whilst employers are generally now more active in addressing the risks of asbestos, and a number of Fire Services have specific health and safety policies in that respect, this was not always so. Many members will have been exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos in the past.

This is of particular concern because the "latency period" (the amount of time it takes for asbestos exposure to result in illness) can be 30 years or more.

## What should I do if I believe I have been exposed to asbestos?

You should not worry unnecessarily. Members are unlikely to have been exposed to the high levels of asbestos as workers in other jobs, e.g. in the shipbuilding, engineering or construction sectors. Even where there has been exposure the risk is very small. However, our advice is to record any possible exposure on our Database.

# ASBESTOS DATABASE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete answers to these questions as well as you can. You do not need to be able to answer all the questions but it is important you provide as much information as accurately as possible.

Full Name:

Full Address:

Telephone Number(s):

Date of Birth:

Period of time in Fire Service:

Brigade(s):

Station(s)/Place(s) of work and dates:

NB: if you run out o room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

Names and addresses of colleagues who can confirm asbestos exposure:

NB: if you run out o room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

Have you ever been told that you may be suffering from any asbestos related disease?

Please tick: Yes  No

If yes, have you been told which of the following you are suffering from?

Please tick: Mesothelioma   
Pleural Plaques   
Pleural Thickening   
Asbestosis   
Lung Cancer

When were you diagnosed?

Have you ever applied for social security benefits for asbestos related disease?

Please tick: Yes  No

If yes, when did you claim and at which social security office?

Have you ever previously obtained legal advice in connection with your asbestos exposure?

Please tick: Yes  No

If yes, please give the name and address of the solicitors.

## FIREFIGHTERS

Please give specific details of any incidents you can recall where asbestos may have been involved.

Names of premises and approximate dates would be useful.

NB: if you run out of room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

In what way do you think you were exposed to asbestos?

NB: if you run out o room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

Please identify any personal protective equipment that may have contained asbestos, e.g. hoods, gloves.  
Was this equipment ever in poor condition resulting in asbestos dust?

NB: if you run out o room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

## CONTROL AND NON-RIDER PERSONNEL

Please specify the premises where you were exposed, the dates and details of information confirming there was asbestos in the workplace or otherwise exposure to asbestos.

NB: if you run out o room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

In what way do you think you were exposed to asbestos?

NB: if you run out o room please continue on a blank sheet and attach where necessary

I confirm that I consent to this information being stored on a database and shared with others, including other law firms instructed by the Union and it belongs to FBU for the benefit of the members. The use of this data will be solely for the purpose of assisting personal injury claims on behalf of you or others who have been exposed to asbestos and establishing the nature and extent of asbestos exposure in the fire service.

If you require legal assistance as a result of your asbestos exposure or any other injury, you should call the FBU legal assistance helpline on 0808 100 60 61.

SIGNED: .....

DATED: .....

Please send you completed form to:

FBU Asbestos Database,

Thompsons Solicitors,

Acresfield,

8 Exchange Street,

Manchester,

M2 7HA