

(The following is an information sheet for the guidance of our public relations department, to be referred to in answering any inquiries which may be received from news media concerning the Osteolysis matter. This is not a publicity release. We plan no release whatsoever but do need to be prepared to answer questions when and if they are put to us.)

Some BFGCC employees, working in domestic plants, are under observation for a medical condition resembling Raynard's Phenomenom. These employees continue to work. The condition affects the finger or fingers on one or both hands. Symptoms include a certain degree of discomfort caused by abnormal sensitivity to cold. The number of employees affected is from 10 to 25: some cases are so marginal that their positive detection is extremely difficult.

The condition was first noted two or three years ago and once it was considered to be industrially connected, the Company xrayed hands of all its employees at each plant. There were some cases detected where the man was unaware that he had the condition. Xrays of the fingers of those affected show a decalcification -- often very minute -- at the tip of the bone at the finger tip.

In BFGCC's investigation, it was found that in most cases, but not in all, the affected employees were engaged in the cleaning of vessels involved in the polymerization of vinyl chloride, or had been at some time during their careers. A few individuals who had never cleaned such vessels were also found to be affected.

BFGCC has approximately 3,000 people in its various plants. There are approximately 1,000 who have at one time or another been engaged in the cleaning of vinyl chloride polymerization vessels.

In the cleaning of these vessels normal industry procedures are employed. After washdown, residual vapors are removed and the cleaner then scrapes residual material from the vessel walls using a putty knife.



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Since the discovery of the problem the Company's program has been to:

- a) take whatever steps deemed most likely to avoid the problem in the future and
- b) to launch an extensive research effort to gain an understanding of the cause of the problem.

Alternative methods of vessel cleaning are being evaluated as are various types of gloves and combinations of gloves.

During the past summer, 12 of the employees found to exhibit the symptoms voluntarily underwent extensive hospital observations and medical testing by specialists to determine if any other physical abnormalities were common within the group. None was found.

The Company has commissioned an independent scientific laboratory and an outside consultant to carry out additional research work on the cause of the condition. These investigations are of course in addition to the Company's medical staff's continuing analysis of the problem.

Once BFGCC felt that the condition could be an industry problem it initiated a series of meetings with medical directors of other companies in the same industry, both in the United States and abroad, to disclose its findings. The Company has also reviewed the matter with the medical committee of MCA.

To date, there is no conclusive evidence as to the cause of the problem. However, the Company is confident that with its program of careful employee surveillance, the problem is under control. Research by the Company and by the industry will continue until the underlying cause is understood.

Over the span of time available for observation, it appears that the condition is reversible.

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