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D.S.M. Newsletter

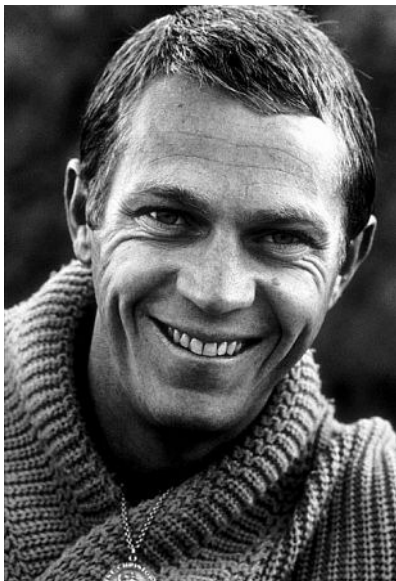
Issue 14

On 12th January 2012 The ADAO (Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization) announced that it is honouring the late Steve McQueen with the Warren Zevon "Keep Me in Your Heart" Memorial Tribute Award. To mark this occasion we have re-released our Steve McQueen article to remind you that asbestos exposure can affect anyone, even the King of Cool.

Asbestos Killed "The King of Cool"



Steve McQueen:



Steve McQueen was born Terrence Steven McQueen on 24th March 1930 in Beech Grove, Indiana USA. In the 1960's and 1970's he was nicknamed "The King of Cool" and was one of the top box-office draws. He was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in *The Sand Pebbles*. McQueen's other popular films include *The Magnificent Seven*, *The Great Escape*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Bullitt*, *The Getaway*, *Papillon*, and *The Towering Inferno*. In 1974, he became the highest-paid movie star in the world.

He was an avid racer of both motorcycles and cars. While he studied acting, he supported himself partly by competing in weekend motorcycle races and bought his first motorcycle with his winnings. He is recognized for performing many of his own stunts, especially the majority of the stunt driving during the high-speed chase scene in *Bullitt*. McQueen also designed and patented a bucket seat and transbrake for race cars.

Mesothelioma:

McQueen developed a persistent cough in 1978; he gave up smoking and underwent antibiotic treatments without improvement. Shortness of breath became more pronounced and in December 1979, after the filming of *The Hunter*, a biopsy revealed mesothelioma, a type of cancer associated with

asbestos exposure. According to his widow Barbara McQueen, the cancer was first found in his right lung and then spread to his abdomen and he also had a lump on his neck that was cancerous. By February 1980, there was evidence of widespread metastasis. While he tried to keep the condition a secret, the National Enquirer disclosed that he had "terminal cancer" on March 11, 1980. In July, McQueen travelled to Playas de Rosarito, Baja California for unconventional treatment after U.S. doctors advised him that they could do nothing to prolong his life. McQueen died at the age of 50 in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, following an operation to remove or reduce several metastatic tumours in his neck and abdomen.

Shortly before his death, McQueen had given a medical interview in which he blamed his condition on asbestos exposure. While McQueen felt that asbestos used in movie soundstage insulation and race-drivers' protective suits and helmets could have been involved, he believed his illness was a direct result of massive exposure while removing asbestos lagging from pipes aboard a troop ship during his time in the Marines. Though his wife at the time of his death, Barbara, also claims that he used to soak cloth in liquid asbestos to put over his face while racing.

McQueen and I:

Below is an excerpt from Barbara McQueen's Daily Mail story 'McQueen and I' written by Ariel Leve:



"Picture this: you are in your mid-twenties and you meet the love of your life. You spend every day together and are rarely apart; your life together is an extended date. You ride motorcycles, fly antique aeroplanes, sit side by side in rocking chairs drinking beer and watching the sun set. Sometimes you'll get in the pick-up truck, go to flea markets, collect cast-iron toys.

You're young. This person is older than you – 23 years older – and looks out for you, cherishes you, makes you feel safe. You plan to spend the rest of your lives together, even though neither of you make plans because you live in the moment. Then, after 3½ years, it stops.

He dies, a messy, drawn-out death from incurable cancer. For the last six months of his life you take care of him. You watch the person you love, who was so virile and active, fade away, and you are helpless. At 27 you become a widow."

Other Victims:

A quick search on the internet will tell you there have been many victims of mesothelioma. Steve McQueen was a Hollywood superstar but he died from asbestos exposure just like so many others. Mesothelioma isn't reserved for workers in the mining industry, manufacturing or the building trades. The use of asbestos is so widespread that even superstar Hollywood actors and racing drivers have been at risk.

Here are few instances of people in England who have recently died from mesothelioma:

[Joan Squires \(age 92\) and John Squires \(age 59\) of Ilford, Essex](#) – Possibly caused by John's job as an electrical engineer or from the two of them trying to fix an asbestos containing storage heater in their home.

[Helen Wickings \(age 65\) of Croydon, Surrey](#) – Exposed to asbestos in her years working for the Inland Revenue in Croydon and Epsom.

[James Simpson \(age 83\)](#) – Worked at Deptford Power Station for almost 25 years and during this time he was exposed to asbestos as he had to knock off asbestos lagging.

[Brian Schofield \(age 72\) of Coventry](#) – Brian was exposed to asbestos during his career as a teacher of engineering, drawing and maths.

[Sophie Ellis \(age 18\) of Suffolk](#) – Cause of mesothelioma is unknown.

The lethal cancer of the lung or the abdomen kills one person every five hours in Britain - the highest rate

in the world.

Can we help you?

Despite the knowledge that Asbestos is highly toxic, it has been used for years in all types of materials. Most ACMs are safe as long as they are not disturbed, but it is not always possible to leave them or stop them degrading.

D.S.M. Asbestos Consultants Ltd has over twenty years experience in the field of asbestos surveying, consultancy and removal. We are fully licensed, insured and highly competent with many supporting references from small domestic contracts to larger industrial applications.

We offer a 7 days a week, 24 hour emergency service to our clients, which includes identification, advice, removal, encapsulation and reinstatement; keeping all contracts in line with the latest Health & Safety regulations and legislation.

Please get in touch using the contact details above or visit our website www.dsmconsultants.co.uk

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Makemson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Stuart Makemson
Senior Surveyor

P.S. Check out March's Interesting Asbestos Related Article - [Scientology's Cruise Ship Freewind's Blue Asbestos Voyage](#)