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New Benzene Lawsuit Filed in Louisiana Alleges Exposure While Performing Construction Jobs

NEW ORLEANS — A new benzene lawsuit filed in Louisiana alleges that the decedent was exposed to “high levels of benzene” while working as an instrument technician, maintenance person and plumber.

In the June 10 action, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the plaintiffs contended that Kevin Boudreaux sustained tissue damage “after each exposure to benzene.”

The plaintiffs filed the action on behalf of Kevin Boudreaux, who was allegedly exposed to benzene-containing products while working as an instrument technician and maintenance worker at a variety of construction sites.

Boudreaux worked with crude oil, gasoline and other chemicals at facilities owned and operated by the defendants for nearly 20 years, the complaint says.

“From 1985 through 2003, he would regularly use or come into contact with benzene or benzene-containing products ... at the defendants’ facilities (Shell Oil, Shell Chemical, Formosa, Rubicon, CF Industries, Exxon, and Dow). On May 14, 2010, Mr. Boudreaux died of acute myeloid leukemia due to his exposure to benzene and benzene-containing products.”

The plaintiffs contend that the defendants knew, or should have known, about the causal relationship between benzene and cancer-related injuries.

“The defendants failed to warn Mr. Boudreaux and other similarly situated workers about the health hazards associated with benzene,” the complaint says.

The lawsuit asserts causes of action for negligence, strict product liability, concealment, misrepresentation and fraud.

Boudreaux, et al. v. Shell Oil Co., et al., No. 13-4762 (E.D. La.).

Counsel for the plaintiffs are Richard J. Fernandez of The Law Offices of Richard J. Fernandez LLC in Metairie, La.; and Lynn Eric Williams Jr. of Williams Law Office in Metairie, La.

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