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## Former Millwright Files Benzene Complaint, Cites Work With Liquid Wrench

NEW ORLEANS — Residents of Louisiana recently filed a new benzene lawsuit, contending that work with Liquid Wrench led one of the plaintiffs to develop Multiple Myeloma.

In a lawsuit filed April 24 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the plaintiffs asserted claims against Radiator Specialty Company and The Dow Chemical Company.

Plaintiffs Carl and Janifer Norred asserted the claims, alleging that Carl Norred was exposed to benzene while using Liquid Wrench during the course of his employment as a millwright at various facilities.

Norred used the product while working on mechanical equipments such as pumps, turbines and compressors, the lawsuit said.

Liquid Wrench, manufactured and sold by defendant Radiator Specialty, contained up to 14 percent or more benzene in the product's primary component, raffinate, the plaintiffs contend. In 1978, the defendant ceased manufacturing the benzene-containing formula of Liquid Wrench, according to the complaint.

"While exposed at the work site[s] described above, petitioner was exposed to dangerously high levels of benzene and other products containing benzene which were unreasonably dangerous materials," the Norreds argued.

As a result of the exposure, Carl Norred developed Multiple Myeloma.

"Petitioner was exposed to significant quantities of benzene, benzene-containing products, and process streams as a result of the acts or omissions of Dow Chemical and Radiator Specialty Company," the lawsuit asserted. "This exposure was a substantial contributing cause in Mr. Norred's development of Multiple Myeloma."

The lawsuit includes causes of action for negligence and strict product liability. The plaintiffs additionally invoked the discovery rule, saying that they were not aware of the cause of Norred's illness until shortly before filing suit.

The plaintiffs are represented by L. Eric Williams Jr. of the Williams Law Office LLC in Metairie, La.; and Richard J. Fernandez and Amber E. Cisney of Richard J. Fernandez LLC in Metairie, La.

Norred, et al. v. Radiator Specialty Co., et al., No. 14-936 (E.D. La.).

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