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CBS News Transcripts

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HEADLINE: SOME AMOCO WORKERS BLAME WORKPLACE FOR RASH OF BRAIN  
CANCERS IN ITS EMPLOYEES

ANCHORS: THALIA ASSURAS

REPORTERS: CYNTHIA BOWERS

BODY:

THALIA ASSURAS, anchor:

Medical investigators in Illinois are trying to find out why more than a dozen workers at an oil research facility have been diagnosed with brain cancer. Some are blaming the workplace. Cynthia Bowers has the story.

CYNTHIA BOWERS reporting:

Yesterday, BP-Amoco confirmed its employees' worst fears about its suburban Chicago research complex and a laboratory known as Building 503.

Mr. MICHAEL WELLS (Manager, Amoco Epidemiology Department): We have a tremendous amount of concern because of this unusual occurrence of brain cancer that we've seen on this site.

BOWERS: BP-Amoco announced yesterday a fifth employee who worked in Building 503 had died of a rare brain cancer. So far, 20 people who worked at this facility have developed brain tumors, seven of those malignant.

Mr. GRANT DIXON (Plaintiff's Attorney): Your odds of developing a brain cancer at 503, if you worked in that one building, and particularly on one floor, were more than 10 times what you would have if you worked anywhere else in the complex.

BOWERS: BP-Amoco shut down an entire wing of the third floor of this building three years ago and hired outside researchers to investigate. To date, the company hasn't conceded the rare brain cancers are work-related.

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Mr. WELLS: We're doing everything we possibly can from a health investigation standpoint to try to understand what's happened out here.

BOWERS: Amoco faces several lawsuits alleging, among other things, faulty ventilation spread highly toxic fumes that are responsible for these cancers. Amoco says it is not ready to draw any conclusions just yet. It will continue to study the problem and release its findings this spring. Cynthia Bowers, CBS News, Chicago.

ASSURAS: And straight ahead on the CBS MORNING NEWS, the federal government pulling its punches against cigarette makers. And the odds that IRS tax advice will steer you wrong.

First, a preview of tonight's "CBS Evening News" with Dan Rather.

DAN RATHER (Anchor, "CBS Evening News"): Tonight here on CBS, in addition to the day's top stories, Eye on America investigates the story of high-tech workers desperate to find out why they are getting sick with cancer. They have their suspicions, such as exposure to toxic chemicals in the workplace, but their employers refuse to help them in their investigation. Join us tonight for the "CBS Evening News."

(Announcements)

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