



[ACTION MESOTHELIOMA DAY 27 FEB, 2008](#)



Evans Fielding



Fred Ogden



Michael Eason



Frank Parden



Hugh Haskins

**Joiner
(dead)**

**Electrician
(dead)**

**Electrician
(dead)**

**Joiner
(dead)**

**Plasterer
(dead)**

Press Notice

What:

A **balloon release** will be held on Action Mesothelioma Day on Wednesday February 27, 2008 in memory of the thousands who have died from mesothelioma, and to raise funds for research into this incurable disease.

The balloon release will be followed by a **public meeting** organised by the Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group where they will discuss the need to warn the city's workers about the dangers they face from asbestos today.

Where:

- Balloon Release will be held at Albert Square, Manchester at 12.30pm.
- The Public Meeting will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester at 1pm .

Interviews and picture opportunities:

- The balloon release at 12.30pm
- Dave McCall Regional Secretary Unite the Union and Maintenance workers.
- Michael Lees, an expert on the dangers of asbestos in schools
- Nigel Bryson, H&S Consultant, an expert on the dangers facing maintenance workers.
- Families and victims of mesothelioma.

Further information

On Action Mesothelioma Day (Wednesday, February 27, 2008) The Greater Manchester Asbestos Support Group will warn of the deadly dangers faced by thousands of tradesmen in the North West today.

The group will welcome the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) new pilot programme to generate awareness of the dangers of asbestos among maintenance workers in the North West.

But will ask for the campaign to be properly resourced and to include simple, clear and practical advice to vulnerable construction maintenance workers to avoid further deaths.

It will also ask for a television advertising campaign on the issue and for the distribution of information leaflets.

The HSE's programme is being launched on Action Mesothelioma Day as part of a national campaign.

Action Mesothelioma Day aims to raise awareness about mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the lung caused by exposure to asbestos. There is no cure for the disease, which is diagnosed in nearly two people every week in the Greater Manchester area.

Asbestos lies dormant in the lungs for decades before developing into mesothelioma. Once diagnosed many sufferers have just months to live.

More than 67,400 construction workers in the North West are in danger of developing mesothelioma. Including 8,000 plumbers and electricians many of whom are routinely exposed to asbestos.

Last year 89 people were diagnosed with mesothelioma in Greater Manchester of those 56% were tradesmen.

The group will also warn that thousands of buildings, including schools, in the North West still contain asbestos, specifically those built before 2000.

It calls on the phased removal of all asbestos from schools or the rebuild of all schools containing asbestos to avoid a new generation of people dying from mesothelioma.

Case studies and further statistics including a regional breakdown of the number of people affected by mesothelioma are available.

A press release will follow prior to the event.

For more contact Tony Whitston on 0161 636 7555 or 07768227476.