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keep America free!***



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Cold War Patriots is a division of Professional Case Management and not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Labor.

1.877.335.0779

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

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PO Box 18916 | Denver, CO 80218-9927

Founded by Professional Case Management



Cold War Patriots will continue to hold Town Halls and Social Events throughout the year—hosting more events than we ever have before!

For date, time, and event locations visit www.coldwarpatriots.org, call 1.877.335.0779, or check your mailbox for official invitations throughout the year! We look forward to continuing to serve the nuclear weapons and uranium workers.

U.S. DOL Rule Changes

U.S. Department of Labor EEOICP Rule Changes Will Affect Workers Rights

As many of our readers are aware, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) implemented rule changes on April 9, 2019 that could prevent thousands of sick nuclear defense and uranium workers from receiving the medical care they have earned in a timely manner.

The rule changes make the process to receive care more cumbersome, including a 36-step pre-authorization process which can take upwards of 60 days to complete and does not allow assistance from medical professionals.

In March and early April, Cold War Patriots launched a campaign with our members to encourage them to call DOL Secretary Acosta to ask him to stop the rules implementation. Our members heard our request and over 2000 people called or emailed Secretary Acosta. Despite the opposition, the DOL ignored the wishes of the Americans it serves and implemented the rule changes.

But the battle isn't over. Professional Case Management (PCM), the leading provider of home health care services for nuclear defense and uranium workers has filed a lawsuit against the DOL seeking judicial review of the changes. At press time the lawsuit is ongoing. Cold War Patriots, a division of PCM, is committed to keeping you updated on any progress that is made on the legal front. You can get more information on the rule changes and/or the lawsuit, visit www.coldwarpatriots.org/DOLchanges or call us toll free at 866-301-0412.

Cold War Patriots Help Center

The Cold War Patriots Help Center assists nuclear weapons and uranium workers navigate programs related to EEOICPA and RECA. Many Help Center representatives are former workers themselves and understand personally the issues that you may face. The Help Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5 pm MST.

Please call 877.335.0779 or email us at info@coldwarpatriots.org.



Updates & News

SEC Expansion Updates

Y-12 Plant – Tennessee

The Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) has been expanded for the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The SEC covers all employees of the U.S. Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contracts and subcontractors who worked at the Y-12 Plant during the period of January 1, 1958 through December 31, 1976 for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days. This makes the entire SEC coverage for Y-12, March 1, 1943 – December 31, 1976. For more information on this or other SEC's, call the Cold War Patriots Help Center at 1.877.335.0779.

Idaho National Laboratory

In April 2019, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommended that an SEC be established for the Idaho National Laboratory in Scoville, Idaho. The SEC would cover all employees of the U.S. Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and were monitored for external radiation at the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant (CPP) between January 1, 1963 and February 28, 1970. It will take several months for this new SEC class to work its way through the approval process and become active.

If you worked at either of these locations during the years mentioned above, please call the Cold War Patriots Help Center at 1.877.335.0779 for more information on benefits you could be eligible for, or how to apply.

News from the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health, which advises the Department of Labor (DOL), held an in-person meeting in Augusta, GA, April 24-25, 2019.

DOL informed the public that Dr. Victoria Cassano has resigned from the board. This brings the board to 11 members, down from the original number of 15. The public will have an opportunity to nominate someone to replace Dr. Cassano.

Rachel Leiton, the program director, reported that the Procedure Manual was updated this month. Another revision will be issued soon. The next revision will reflect the changes in the Final Rules.

In November 2018, the board requested 100 case files to determine if the cases were decided fairly and using the best scientific and medical principles. The board members received 20 of the claims two weeks before the meeting. The remainder are pending.

A review of those claims showed that reports from the industrial hygienists (IH) were confusing and sometimes contradictory. The reports also include language concerning exposures after 1995. This language originally was developed for Final Circular 15-06. DEEOIC rescinded this circular and the board is concerned about the use of the circular language in the IH reports.

The board approved two recommendations for Secretary Acosta:

- ★ To provide the board with a technical support contractor to assist with reviewing claims.
- ★ The IH reports provide all supporting documentation when explaining the levels of exposure which a worker may have experienced.

The next in-person meeting will be in the Fall of 2019, location to be determined. To read the full recap, please visit coldwarpatriots.org and click on NEWS.

What Is Skin Cancer and How Would I Know If I Have It?

Skin cancer is a growth of malignant cells that form in the tissues of the skin. It can occur on the arms or legs, hands, feet, face, scalp or anywhere on the trunk of the body. The three main types of skin cancer are squamous cell, basal cell, and malignant melanoma. Each of these types have their own unique look. There are other less common types of skin cancers as well. Screening by your doctor should include a personal and work history along with a physical including inspection of the skin and possible biopsy.

Causes of Skin Cancer:

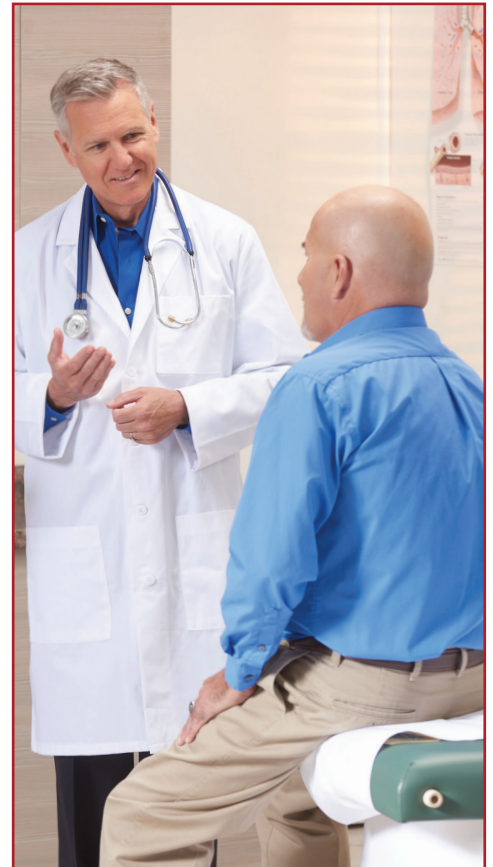
These include occupational and environmental causes such as those found in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Weapons Labs and other manufacturing sites. Ionizing radiation is a common contributor to skin cancer, either from workplace exposure, the sun, certain X-rays or tanning beds. Chemicals such as solvents, vinyl chloride, and PCB's are also carcinogenic to skin and mucous membranes with repeated exposure.

Risk Factors:

- ★ Caucasians with light or freckled skin, light eyes and red or blonde hair burn more easily
- ★ Family history of skin cancer
- ★ Personal history of past skin cancer
- ★ Exposure to radiation in the workplace
- ★ Repeated severe sunburns over time
- ★ Repeated exposure to chemical carcinogens
- ★ Those with weak immune systems

What Are Some of the Signs and Symptoms?

Warning signs that you may have skin cancer are: Changes in a mole, wart or other lesion on the skin such as change in color, size, shape or feel. Other signs are easy bleeding, oozing, scabbing, uneven borders, itching, burning, or a lesion not healing. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to survival. Skin cancer can spread (metastasize) beyond the skin to other organs of the body through layers of tissues, into the lymphatic system, or blood.



How is Skin Cancer Treated?

If you or your doctor think you might have skin cancer, treatment may include therapeutic radiation, narrow or wide surgical excision of the lesion and surrounding tissues, cryotherapy, laser therapy, topical drugs, photodynamic treatment, or combination therapy, depending on the type of skin cancer being treated. Avoidance of further exposure is important to prevent new skin cancers.