

Health effects of solder

With reference to the query from K.O. in EA, I have gathered some information on possible health effects of working with solder.

The major recognised effect is one of occupational asthma which seems to be due to sensitivity to colophony (pine resin) fumes. There have been several reports documenting this type of effect.

There has been a suggestion that there may be an increased risk of spontaneous abortion in women working with soldering.

In a study of cancer morbidity of tele-

communications workers there was no overall increase in total cancer morbidity. An excess risk of malignant melanoma of the skin was detected, which seemed to be particularly associated with soldering.

Dermatitis has also been associated with soldering flux.

I should point out that the above effects were found in a literature search and the authors' summaries used without critical appraisal.

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