

MOON DUST GETS 6 MEN SHOWERS

NASA Workers Touch Soil Accidentally

Houston, July 26 (AP)—A 30-year-old photographic technician has accidentally become the first man to touch moon dust inside quarantine chambers here, forcing himself and five others to strip and run to the showers.

The incident, which went unreported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for more than 10 hours, happened shortly before midnight last night as Terry N. Slezak was removing a 70-millimeter film magazine, or cassette, from a plastic bag.

Powdery Substance

Mr. Slezak, father of four and an amateur opera singer, looked down at his fingers and saw a black powdery substance sticking to them. He then remembered that the Apollo 11 commander, Neil A. Armstrong, had dropped one such film magazine on the lunar surface and had had to pick it up with tongs.

Following quarantine rules, the five men who were with Mr. Slezak at the time had to strip and take a five-minute shower. Mr. Slezak himself remained behind, sealing his and the others' clothes in plastic bags, then he also showered.

Neither he nor the other five
(Continued, Page 4, Col. 1)

MOON DUST GETS 6 MEN SHOWERS

NASA Workers Touch Soil Accidentally

(Continued from Page 1)

men—Dr. Craig Fischer, chief of the manned spacecraft center's clinical laboratory; John McLeish, a NASA information officer, and Mel Graham, Henry Cantu and Charles Gill, all technicians—reported any ill effects.

At NASA Since '62

Mr. Slezak, a quality-control technician in the center's photo laboratory and a NASA employee since 1962, thus became one of the first people on earth to touch moon dust.

Mr. Armstrong and the other Apollo 11 crewmen, Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., and Lt. Col. Michael Collins, are believed to have come in contact with it when they dusted their clothes and vacuumed their moonship interior while still in space.

Two men who have been with the astronauts inside a quarantine trailer on the recovery ship may also have touched traces of the material.

"No Change"

The accidental contact last night in the Lunar Receiving Laboratory here, "brings no change in plans, since all of the men involved are already in quarantine," NASA said.

The agency had no explanation for why the incident was not reported for 10 hours, other than the fact it occurred near midnight and the normal news-release operations were shut down for the night.