

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) D. D. Kos - O-11

November 2, 1982

cc:

SHAC

SUBJECT Extension Ladder Securement

REFERENCE

TO :SAC

SHAC was given the assignment of addressing extension ladder securement methods (at the rungs) following the incident in which a boilermaker fell from an unlatched extension ladder.

The "Guide for Accident Prevention" states that the top of a vertical ladder should be securely tied to the structure. The carpenter craft also has had a long standing practice of tying wire around the rungs of the extension ladder at the level of the latches. This is done to ensure the latches remain engaged. This is not a plant rule.

SHAC contacted several other Monsanto plant locations and the "American Ladder Institute." We found no practices or recommendations relating to securement of the rungs of extension ladders. However, SHAC did feel a securement policy was necessary because (1) this location has experienced two days away injuries related to latching problems, (2) the carpenter craft has a practice of securing the rungs with wire, and (3) when an extension ladder is secured at the top, it is very susceptible to unlatching if the ladder footing is moved.

The use of baling wire as a universal tie-down material by all crafts is an unacceptable risk. The plant has experienced numerous serious injuries related to the use of wire and a tie-down method for non-carpenter craft personnel is needed.

SHAC engaged the HSC to ask unit/craft teams for suggestions on other tie-down methods (other than baling wire). The HSC suggested the use of plastic ties similar to those now used as carseals throughout the plant. A vendor has been located which will supply the 30" tie which has been found by testing to withstand up to 40 pounds tensile force.

SHAC recommends that a policy be established requiring that all extension ladders be secured with No. 16 gauge wire or plastic ties on both ends of the rungs at the level of the latches. When taking down a ladder, it should be untied at the top first, and at the rungs as progressing down the ladder.

If approved, this policy will be publicized by bulletin board announcement and unit/craft team notification. Eventually this policy should be included in the "Guide for Accident Prevention."

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