

R. L. Lambke, M.D. - Ponca City

Oran D. Steffey

January 22, 1980

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES - JANUARY 1980

Information relative to tetrahydrofuran has been furnished Mr. Dennis Reust, Exploration Research. This included threshold limit values, toxicology, diagnosis of exposure, first-aid, and medical control. A copy of the information was placed in the toxicology files for future reference. In order to have a fairly complete file on this substance, a request was made of the RTECS file and Toxline file for information.

An interoffice communication has been addressed to the various members of the Medical Division relative to respirators. This was done because of questions which have been asked concerning the various types of these safety devices. It is hoped that this will aid the consideration which must be made by a physician as to whether or not a worker can function in a respirator.

Working from a listing of OSHA inspections, comparison has been made of discrepancies deemed reportable as the result of OSHA inspections into various plants with areas of discrepancies noted by medical industrial hygiene inspections into these same plants. While discrepancies as noted by medical industrial hygiene might not have been specifically the same as cited by OSHA from the OSHA Regulations, the same general OSHA Regulation was used for the purpose of calling attention to noncompliance.

At the request of Dr. Whetstone, a conference was held with W. D. Broddle on the subject of information needed to prioritize toxicological research of petroleum refinery catalysts. General analytical information on spent and regenerated catalyst from the Ponca City Refinery was furnished Dr. Broddle. Our main concern in this area has been catalyst dust produced during emergencies and during maintenance operations since analysis shows the catalyst to contain high quantities of vanadium, nickel, and lead.

An interoffice communication has been written concerning the initiation of a hazard survey by crafts as part of the industrial hygiene program at the Lake Charles Refinery. This program, under the direction of Mr. Mike Johnston, Industrial Hygienist, is an example of part of the type of program which the Medical Division earlier presented to refinery management as necessary in all refinery locations.

Indexes have been made covering the various NIOSH Technical Informational Reports and the NIOSH Research Reports. Since these cover some 53 different subjects, it will facilitate location of information with greater ease.

R. L. Lembke, M.D.

Page 2

January 22, 1980

Recommendations for a radiation safety record keeping system have been made to Mr. R. B. Blomeyer, Manager of the Billings Refinery. Since the Billings Refinery is now in possession of four sealed radioactive sources, three of which are licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it is quite desirable that a program be established which addresses itself to the subject of radiological health and safety and retention of records.

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