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IBPAT Launches Jobsite Monitor

Everyone knows paint trade work is hazardous.

What makes it so risky?

To help IBPAT find out more, General President Rafferty asked the General Executive Board to select 15 representatives to be trained as IBPAT's first Jobsite Monitoring Corps.

The Corps is a cross-section of IBPAT's general representative, business managers and representatives, apprenticeship coordinators and health and safety officials from all seven districts. At a five-day seminar, they learned about 120 products, rates and methods of application, dimensions of work spaces and protective practices, and specially designed computer forms.

In addition, the 15 learned to use six instruments: solvent vapor sampling pumps, explosimeters, oxygen meters, air velocimeters, and noise and light meters.

The information they gather will help pinpoint high-risk conditions in your trades. We have prepared original computer programs to analyze their data," says General President Rafferty. "And each recorded observation is a factor in our Hazard Index, a computer model to calculate exposure levels in any work environment."

Score of studies in the U.S. and Europe show the toxic effects of trade substances. The famous Moolnir-Shin School of Medicine Report of 1975

uncovered excess rates of certain cases among painters. At least recent Scandinavian study has produced a frightening new definition of a long-recognized phenomenon: chronic painter's syndrome, disorder characterized by brain atrophy and diminished motor functions.

But in spite of all this, precious little attention has been paid to painters in their own "real-life" work environments.

Until now.

Now that our Brotherhood launched its Jobsite Monitor Corps, President Rafferty says, will sample work sites across the Union from January to April 1982.



General President Frank Rafferty meets with 15 IBPAT representatives selected to implement IBPAT's new Jobsite Monitoring System. "Whether you call it 'supply-side' or 'trickle-down,' no one has to explain economics to us," said the President. "If our union contractors don't make it, neither do we. Our aim is to advance the industry by making it safer and more productive. The two go hand in hand." Seated left to right are: President Rafferty; Local 502 Business Representative Allen Fordham of Rock Island, Ill.; Local 41 Business Representative Albert Sulecavage of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Local 1247 Apprenticeship Coordinator Robert Stahl of Whittier, Calif.; Local 1486 Health and Safety Coordinator Robert Lattanzio of East Islip, N.Y.; District Council 4 Health and Safety Coordinator Daniel Boddy of Buffalo, N.Y.; District Council 63 Business Manager George Suddarth of Albuquerque, N.M.; Local 469 Business Representative Thomas M.

Ringstar of Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Local 49 Apprenticeship Coordinator Doug Pfund of Memphis, Tenn. Standing left to right are: District Council 51 Training Director Gary Monn of Hyattsville, Md.; Central Coast Counties JATC Coordinator Mary Strand of Sunnyvale, Calif.; Local 1010 Business Representative D. E. "Bucky" West of Orlando, Fla.; District Council 2 Health and Safety Coordinator Gary Stevens of Louisville; IBPAT Fourth District General Representative Jer Christean; IBPAT/OSH Project Director Marilyn Larsø; IBPAT Research Director Frank Butkhardt; and IBPAT/OSH Health Sciences Specialist Robert Patt. Not pictured a Local 650 Business Representative John Pace of Lawton, Okla., and IBPAT Health and Safety Director Rod Wollor.

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initiative will link conditions, prod-
ucts and trade workers to help provide
blueprint for hazard control. Presi-
dent Katterly points out, for example,
that "our efforts will enable painters
and contractors in the future to select
high ventilation and other controls
to work with the lowest risk and high
productivity."

(Continued next page)



Research Director Frank Burkhardt
directs representatives and outlines
their role in IBPAT policy. "You repre-
sent a good cross section of our union-
ists," he told them. "You are in posi-
tions to gather the data IBPAT needs
to suggest feasible alternatives to im-
prove trade conditions which in turn
will strengthen the economic hand of
our union contractors."



District Council 2 Health and Safety
Coordinator Gary Stevens questions Dr.
Charles Billings about the meaning of
a reading on his O₂ meter.



IBPAT representatives learn to operate monitoring equipment. They discovered
that those who can operate a few key pieces are not easily intimidated by moni-
toring instruments. Here they assemble explosimeters or combustible gas detec-
tors.



The week-long Jobsite Monitoring Seminar, held in the nation's
capital, was funded jointly by the International and the Occupational
Safety and Health Administration New Directions Grant. IBPAT Re-
search Director Frank Burkhardt led off the seminar for General Presi-
dent Katterly. IBPAT Health and Safety Director Rod Wolford and
IBPAT/OSH Project Director Marilyn Larson led most sessions with
special presentations by OSH staff members: Audio-Visual Specialist
Les Crandell on cameras and light meters; Staff Writer Maria Darby
on ventilation tables; and Health Sciences Specialist Robert Patt on
respirator selection, and by consulting Computer Analyst Thomas
Crancer and Consultant Jon Lieberman.

Guest speakers were leading authorities in their fields: Dr. Charles
Billings of Johns Hopkins University delivered a full day of technical
instruction in monitoring instruments and introduced industrial hygiene
graduate student Nancy Nicol who demonstrated noise meters. Edwin
Holstein, M.D., of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine discussed med-
ical monitoring. Mr. Frank Frodyma of OSHA detailed the agency's new
safety targeting policy. IBPAT General Counsel David Barr addressed
participants on issues of possible union liability.

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IBPAT Jobsite Monitors (Cont'd)

OSHA sets standards for exposure to many workplace substances which are usually expressed in parts per million of the concentration of a substance in air. But very few measurements of airborne solvents released during painting, taping, blasting or floorcovering have ever been made. Few, if any, measurements have been made of paint particulates such as pigments.

So, while substance toxicity and diseases affecting painters are known, not much is known about how paint products are used and under what conditions we can expect to find trouble.

"Our Brotherhood recognized this information gap over two years ago when it won a special grant from OSHA to create the Jobsite Monitoring Corps," recalls the General President. These 15 representatives will not move from job to job looking for health or safety violations. Instead, each trained representative will sam-

ple 10 work spaces and return collected data to International Headquarters.

The challenge of this new effort is formidable. But the 15 participants demonstrated commitment and a clear understanding of the many steps to be taken. General President Raftery told them, "You were hand-picked for this job because of your dedication and ability to help shape IBPAT's health and safety programs. When you complete your monitoring tasks in April, we will have the information to make our future direction clear." And Health and Safety Director Rod Wolford, "Our recommendations are economically feasible. This protection won't cost employers. It will give them and our members the information that leads to savings and a competitive edge."

After the new Jobsite Monitoring Corps completes its survey, many months will be needed to analyze data and produce jobsite reports.



IBPAT General Counsel David Barr appoints participants of the Jobsite Monitoring Corps as jobsite monitors. "You are not out to find violations or to look for violations," he said. "You are gathering information for analysis by a special group of experts."



Representatives try out IBPAT/OSH computer programs and data bases. At the terminal is Fourth District General Representative Jerry Christean, who volunteered to query the computer on respirator use. Says IBPAT/OSH Health Sciences Specialist Robert Patti, left, "Our Respirator Scoring Program gives members immediate feedback on their respirator practices and makes specific suggestions for improving scores." Any member who wants an analysis of his or her respirator use can write to IBPAT/OSH. Also shown, left to right, are: Health and Safety Director Rod Wolford, Local 1486 Health and Safety Coordinator Robert Lattanzio and Local 41 Business Representative Albert Sulcavage.



Edwin Holtz, M.D., of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, explains how occupational diseases are discovered. "You have an intimate knowledge of the paint trades. No one is in a better position to observe the problems when they first begin."

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Would you like to learn how your respirator use practices measure up? Let IBPAT/OSH prepare a personal analysis of your respiratory protection practices. Write for a free questionnaire: IBPAT/OSH, 1750 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.