

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY
SOUTH CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

MEMORANDUM

July 23, 1987

To: Mr. R. R. Burns 507

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From: D. C. Kirby

Subject: Distribution Operational Safety/Health Survey
UCC Institute Plant

Dear Mr. Burns:

Attached is the final report of the Operational Safety/Health Survey for the UCC Distribution Facilities at the Institute Plant. The survey was conducted during the week of June 8, 1987, and a preliminary report was presented to plant management on June 15, 1987.

During the course of the survey the team noted many positive indications of management's interest and commitment to the safety and health program which exists at this location. The team discovered no imminent hazards requiring immediate attention. Two priority concerns and several less serious safety and health concerns were identified as deserving attention.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY HEALTH SURVEY
DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

INSTITUTE PLANT

JUNE 8-12, 1987

BY:

J. E. Gravenmier
A. E. Green
D. C. Kirby
D. C. Schmidt
E. G. Trawick

The ventilation for the drumming enclosure was reported to be weak, allowing fumes to escape from the enclosure during drumming. The enclosure ventilation rate was checked in September 1986 by the Safety Department, and the inspection sticker noted that the ventilation exceeded recommended rates. It is suspected that escaping fumes are caused by the wall mounted room exhaust fan pulling fumes out of the enclosure towards the operator.

Recommendation

1. Relocate the room exhaust fan so that exhaust path is not directed at drumming operators.
2. Have ventilation rates rechecked on enclosure to insure it still operates within recommended flow rates.

LH 9 Phenol Truck Unloading

Distribution Specialists reported that when the dome of a phenol truck is opened, crystals of phenol blow out. The Specialists reported that the christmas tree system is often plugged and they are unable to properly relieve pressure before opening the dome.

Recommendation

Investigate a procedure (when christmas trees are plugged) to properly relieve truck pressure before opening the dome.

LH 10 Asbestos in Pipe Racks

Maintenance personnel reported that when working in the pipe racks loose "asbestos" is seen falling. They are concerned about potential exposure to asbestos.

Recommendation

The team supports the current project to repair or remove exposed and damaged asbestos insulation.

LH 11 Acrylonitrile (ACN) Exposure

When unloading an ACN tank car, a Distribution Specialist typically spends 15 minutes in the dome area to hook up and sample. Industrial hygiene data (1985-1987) indicates that ACN air concentration in this area has been 5-7 ppm. ACN is a cancer causing agent and a teratogen with a 2 ppm TWA and a 10 ppm ceiling for 15 minutes. Distribution's hazard communication program states that ACN can result in major residual injury from breathing in spite of prompt treatment. Industrial hygiene monitoring data has not shown any 8 hr. TWA overexposures but concern about potential 15 minute ceiling exposures was raised. No breathing air is available at the ACN unloading spot as required by Plant Procedure SOP II-11 for Personnel Protective Equipment for chemicals with a health rating of "4" for inhalation.