

FILE COPY

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MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS

July 10, 1959

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MON-1123

To: W. R. Nisbet

cc: Plant Manager's
Safety Board:

J. G. McQuarrie
G. D. Rucker
R. W. Rotzler
W. H. Slager
A. E. Withrow
N. F. Wood
W. F. Zimmermann/G.T. Ryan
E. H. Jones
J. S. Putnam
W. E. Alexander/C.A. Burton
S. L. Hunter

Subject: Investigation of a Spill in Department 5, July 10, 1959

SUMMARY:

A spill alarm was turned in from the styrene area at 1:00 PM, July 10, 1959. The spill was ethylbenzene from an unused nozzle on the 5D2 column. The contract painters hydroblast cut a hole in this nozzle. The column was immediately taken out of service. The all-clear was sounded at 1:25 PM.

COMMENTS:

Primary cause was existence of a weakened line attached to operating equipment. A program of replacement or repair of badly corroded piping, equipment, and structure in this unit has been in progress during 1959. This program will continue, but a lengthy shutdown will be necessary to accomplish many of these jobs.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

Production has kept informed of the location of the hydroblast work in order to guard against such rupture as occurred today. Efforts will be increased in this regard, and an operator will be used to guide the hydroblast painter in work on critical equipment and piping.

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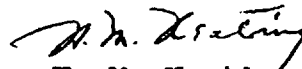
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Longer-range a program to avoid such extreme deterioration of equipment and piping will be followed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Develop and practice a preservative maintenance program in all areas.
- 2) Maintain close control of hydroblast work on critical equipment and piping.


H. M. Keating

djl

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