

From rather wide clinical observation and from some experimental work, it seems apparent to us that the presence of Ethyl fluid in the gasoline does not contribute to the problem. None of the ingredients of Ethyl fluid are themselves as irritating as is gasoline. Moreover it appears that with the advent of "cracked" gasolines, the irritation to the skin is more frequent and more severe. It has been shown that some of the unusual products which result from "cracking" procedures are quite irritating, and in susceptible people may produce a rather severe type of dermatitis.

Lead poisoning, as such, has never been seen among handlers of leaded gasoline. Clinical studies and experimental work have shown that in the commercial concentrations, lead is not absorbed as a result of skin contact with leaded gasoline. Despite this fact we have made it a point to investigate serious complaints of injury, and I should appreciate it, therefore, if you would keep me informed of any developments in this case which may seem to be of either medical or medico-legal importance.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

RAK:l
cc Mr. Edgar

RE 0011761

June 20, 1936

Mr. L. D. Mann
Empire Oil and Refining Company
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 5th directed to the attention of Mr. Norman of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and referring to a case of alleged lead poisoning in a service station man, has been referred to me for reply.

You are probably aware that damage to the skin occurs as a consequence of frequent contact with gasoline. Different people respond somewhat differently to skin exposure to gasoline. Most persons develop some drying and cracking of the skin of the hands and wrists, and on such a site various types of infections may develop. An occasional person is quite sensitive to gasoline and develops a definite dermatitis of varying degrees of severity, and not necessarily limited to the area of contact.