

SOURCES OF HELP FOR THE SAFETY MAN

safe physical standards, and safe procedures have been developed for a wide variety of activities within the Army. Information on nonclassified standards will be provided

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Codes and Safety Standards Section, Connecticut Ave and Van Ness St NW, Washington, D C 20234

The CODES AND SAFETY STANDARDS SECTION, which forms a part of the BUILDING RESEARCH DIVISION of the National Bureau of Standards, sponsors several building and safety standards and assists in the preparation of many standards sponsored by other groups. These codes, with a few exceptions, are prepared by representative sectional committees operating under the rules of procedure of the American Standards Association. They are intended to serve as a basis for regulations promulgated by states and cities, as standards for the federal government, and for voluntary use by industry, architects, and consulting engineers.

The section serves as safety consultant to the NBS and on request to other governmental departments in the preparation of specifications, analysis of bids, and final acceptance tests of such equipment as elevators, electrical equipment, and lightning protection.

The section arranges for other NBS divisions to conduct basic research on equipment to secure data for codes. Such studies have included transmission of welding glass in the ultraviolet, visible, and infrared spectra, and performance of elevator hoistway door interlocks, hydraulic buffers, and undercar safeties.

Of particular interest to safety engineers is the *Code for Head, Eye, and Respiratory Protection*, developed from tests conducted at the bureau.

The bureau conducts research on problems relating to fire safety and the fire resistance of materials and assists other organizations in the formulation of standards and codes pertaining to fire and structural hazards in buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Pentagon, Washington, D C 20301

See separate entries Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, and Department of the Navy

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF MINES

181h, 19th, and C Sts NW, Washington, D C 20006

Promotion of safe, healthful working conditions in the Nation's mines and mineral-processing plants has been a major responsibility of the Bureau of Mines since its creation by the Congress in 1910. As the demands of mineral conservation over the years have required gradual broadening of bureau activity in such important research fields as mining, metallurgy, and fuels technology, so has progress in industrial techniques and equipment called for continual expansion and improvement of bureau health and safety programs.

Bureau health and safety work can be classified under research, education and training, testing of equipment, and coal mine inspection. Each of these activities is described below.

Research. Fundamental and applied research is devoted to health and safety problems in such fields as rock physics, explosives and explosions, and mine ventilation. These have contributed to noteworthy improvements in methods for supporting ground at mine workings, for preventing ignition of combustible gases, liquids, and coal dust, and for planning and installing effective and reliable systems for coursing air through underground workings. Bureau research has defined the limits of flammability for hundreds of fluids and vapors, and has determined with precision the conditions under which many different kinds of dust will explode. It has also led to advances in mine fire fighting, in underground lighting systems, in tunnel design, and in design of safer mining methods and equipment.

Education and Training. On the basis of knowledge acquired through research and exhaustive investigation of thousands of accidents, the bureau has developed effective courses in accident prevention, first aid, and mine rescue training. Supplemented by the published findings of its many studies and by such widely-used handbooks as its *First-Aid Manual*, these courses have instilled safety awareness and competence in emergencies in millions of mineral-industry workers. The bureau also promotes safety by active sponsorship of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association (named for the