

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
135 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK November 21, 1930.

**INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. N. D. Siebenthaler,

Dear Sieb:

Thanks for your letter of November 18th confirming our discussion in Chicago.

It is quite in order for your office to communicate direct with division managers on all changes in either equipment or procedure that are required in the blending of ETHYL fluid to meet our rules and regulations. I would like to have a copy of your letter to them in order that we may follow the matter to a conclusion from this end.

Eddie Walter submitted the aviation contract to Mr. Webb yesterday. It will probably be a matter of a few weeks before it is ready. However, this contract will provide that all future mixing of ETHYL fluid in aviation gasoline should be done through the eductor system and must meet with our approval. I take it you have not changed your views that you do not consider it necessary for us to go into this matter of mixing Ethyl Aviation Fluid until such time as the contract has been issued and executed by those of our distributors who wish to sell Ethyl Aviation Gasoline, of course on the understanding that no undue delay occurs in accomplishing this.

With regard to having our field staff inspect mixing points periodically, attached hereto is copy of letter we are addressing all of our division managers today which we hope covers the situation. If at any time you should find our field staff is not acting in accord with these instructions I would appreciate your please letting me know because I believe one of the most important duties that we have is to be sure that all health hazards are entirely eliminated in our operations.

It was a pleasure to see you in Chicago and I am only sorry that I did not have more time to spend with you.

Yours very truly,

Yours very truly,



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TO ALL DIVISION MEMBERS

I am a little fearful that we have been letting up on our system of inspecting mining installations in some sections of the country. I would like therefore for you to each investigate a system whereby a chart is made up of all mining points in your respective divisions and then see that one of your men calls at those points and thoroughly inspects it to see that it fulfills all of our rules and regulations, at least once a month. I or, in other words, every four months. You will see that it does not necessarily mean that we have to take a week off from their other duties. However, there should be entries made on

your chart that these inspections are being made, and the dates listed thereon. I would like to have you report to me each month a list of the mining points that have been inspected. If everything is found to be entirely in order no further comment is required. If, however, the maintenance and operation of the plants are not fulfilling our procedure and regulations, then a separate report should be made up fully covering the matter, with recommendations as to what action should be taken to accomplish the desired results.

I would thank you to give me your careful attention because we must never relax in our diligence to see that the handling of concentrate will stand as far as possible in all of its phases in a manner that eliminates any possible hazard concerning.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and advise

Very truly yours,

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ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION
CHRYSLER BUILDING
135 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK November 10, 1930.

TO ALL DIVISION MANAGERS.

About two or three weeks ago a fire occurred at one of the ETHYL fluid mixing plants in Oklahoma. The fluid became very hot and finally the drums exploded. However, as the explosion took place the fluid apparently burned and after the fire was over, but very little of it could be found. The drums were quite dry.

The fire occurred from a spark from the circulating pump at the Ethyl blending plant which happened after a vapor lock had been fixed in a long gasoline flow line from the storage tank. The fluid itself did not catch on fire until considerable gasoline and oil had burned and the heat was quite intense.

The entire blending plant was wrecked. Our field representative, Bob Graham, was immediately dispatched to the point and he had the refinery people dig a deep hole and bury all of the wrecked equipment. Some small amount of ETHYL fluid also ran down a drain, carried through it by the water that was poured on to the fire. He had this drain filled in with earth.

Three or four men breathed the fumes of the burning fluid but no one was harmed and they did not become sick from the lead. Of course, they ran away from the fire as quickly as they could.

We are writing this summarized report to all division managers in order that they might know what to expect in the event a refinery fire occurs and ETHYL fluid is in it.

We are very doubtful if any sprinkler system would have prevented the explosion of the ETHYL fluid drums. Gasoline heat is very intense of course and water does not diminish it.

Of course, obviously, anyone in the vicinity of a burning ETHYL fluid mixing plant should get far away from it as soon as they are able.

There isn't much doubt but that the heat caused decomposition of the ETHYL fluid which set up tremendous pressure which finally burst the drums and at that point the fluid caught on fire but burned rather completely.

The main point to be considered, which of course is true of all refinery operation, is the possibility of a spark occurring from an electrically driven pump. We don't want to lay down a ruling that such pumps should not be used but we think it advisable for our men to recommend against it in connection with ETHYL fluid operations. If they are used every care should be taken to see that the switches are emerged in oil.

This letter is written to you for your confidential information and of course not for general discussion.

Very truly yours,

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