



Tank Incident #6

Brief Summary

Tank #209 - Gulf Oil Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio - July 1937

Tank had been pumped out about two months before cleaning started and manhole left open for ventilation during this time.

Three men worked on job and all worked inside tank for various periods which are not well defined in history.

Of the three men, [REDACTED] who was the foreman, would appear to have been in the tank the most (and the evidence is fairly clear on this presumption) was effected the least. [REDACTED] who would appear to have had intermediate time of exposure of the three men, was moderately ill. Anna continued to have symptoms for considerably longer than would have been expected. It is of interest that the urine lead levels on this man continued to be high for much longer than would be expected. The evidence is fairly clear that [REDACTED] spent the least time within the tank and he is the one of the three who was most severely ill and succumbed.

No respiratory protection was used excepting a canister mask used by

[REDACTED] but this was used only the afternoon of the third day.

The concentration of lead in the urines of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and in the tissues of [REDACTED] was sufficiently elevated to confirm the diagnosis of lead intoxication.

This is clearly another instance of failure to use respiratory protection in a tank which was undoubtedly extremely dangerous.

Although the writer is not impressed with the reliability of sludge analytical methods nor the necessary correlation between percentage lead in sludge and that in air it nonetheless should be mentioned that the organic lead concentration in sludge was quite high (before cleaning started sample showed 0.13% lead and the day after cleaning 0.23% lead).

There is reason to believe that tanks which remain idle some time

before cleaning operations start develop more dangerous conditions than those which are cleaned immediately after being pumped out.

3 men involved on job.

3 men with confirmed diagnosis of lead intoxication.

1 died.

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