

May 28, 1942.

Dr. Raymond Hussey,
State Industrial Accident Commission,
741 Equitable Building,
Batlimore, Maryland.

Dear Dr. Hussey:

Thanks for the information given in your letter of May 18. I should have known that these cases were those previously brought to my attention in connection with the cleaning of gasoline tanks. However, I missed the point, because I do not think of these cases as arising from the activities of either filling station attendants or garage mechanics. I think it is somewhat misleading, and since this is the only hazard from tetraethyl lead that goes beyond the manufacturing and mixing plants, it would be better, in my opinion, if such cases were referred to under some such heading as "cleaning gasoline storage tanks". I think this might be useful, because acute illness and fatalities develop not too infrequently out of this type of work. When men have to enter storage tanks containing volatile solvents, petroleum products, and gasoline, they are up against a series of hazards which are about as great as any encountered in any occupation. In the case of gasoline tanks, they run serious risks from asphyxiation, fire and explosion, gasoline intoxication, and lead poisoning. It would seem, therefore, that this occupation might well deserve some specific reference.

I am sure you will understand that this is not criticism, but rather an expression of opinion for whatever it may be worth.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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