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# NEWS

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For Immediate Release

## DOW RECEIVES VINYL INSTITUTE SAFETY AWARD

WAYNE, New Jersey, June 26, 1986 — Dow Chemical Company has received the Vinyl Institute's second annual safety award for its work in two areas related to the safe storage of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and for the development of a universally applicable risk potential index for chemical manufacturing plants. William H. Shoun, vinyl industry marketing manager for Dow Chemical USA, accepted the award from Institute chairman Steven W. Schaefer at the Vinyl Institute's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., May 27.

Dow received the award for a presentation made to the Vinyl Chloride Safety Association by Robert Oubre, technical manager of Dow's technology center in Texas, that included a worldwide survey of VCM and PVC (polyvinyl chloride, or vinyl) storage and loading facilities. In addition, the survey generated data on the distances between these plants and nearby residential areas in order to determine the potential risk posed by on-site storage facilities.

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Dow's work also includes the development of a formula that can be used to determine the risk presented by any chemical, at any plant, under any manufacturing condition. The formula assigns values to a variety of items, including toxicity, concentration, distance and some physical factors, to obtain a numerical index that can be used to compare the relative hazard presented by different chemicals.

Shoun explained that the index can be used by manufacturers and plant site communities to assess the potential risk to local residents presented by the possibility of a leak or spill, and can match emergency preparedness to the relative hazard of the chemical involved.

The index already has been used by the Environmental Protection Agency, to develop its Chemical Emergency Preparedness program, and by Dow in its CMA-sponsored CAER (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) program.

The Vinyl Institute annually solicits nominations from its membership of PVC and VCM producers for outstanding contributions to safety. The program is coordinated by the Institute's health, safety and environment committee.

The Vinyl Institute is a trade association representing the leading manufacturers of PVC and VCM. It is headquartered in Wayne, New Jersey.

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