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TO: Keith Fogg

FROM: Tom Grumbles

DATE: May 16, 1985

SUBJ: USE OF EMERGENCY ESCAPE (MOUTHBIT) RESPIRATORS

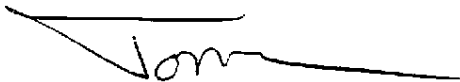
VISTA

Interoffice
Communication

The following is to confirm our discussion regarding the subject respirators.

1. I am not aware of data indicating the effectiveness of the respirators we use for HF acid vapors or mist. It would be difficult for us to quantify the use limitations in terms of maximum use concentration for these respirators.
2. In reviewing the process area, with the exception of elevated areas, escape routes are generally very short and the time it would take to exit the affected area would often be less than it would take to put on the respirator.
3. Procedures and work practices, such as locating respirator supplies on elevated platforms, can be instituted to make respirators available for escape from these areas.
4. Current plant practice results in a very large number of respirators being in use (carried) at all times. To effectively monitor the condition, storage, and operating integrity of these respirators to assure the proper working condition in the event of an emergency is difficult at best.

In summary, I would agree that the current use practices for the mouth bit respirators could be modified, as discussed, with no subsequent decrease in employee safety. This change would include administrative procedures to assure availability of the respirators on elevated platforms or areas.


Thomas G. Grumbles

cc: Bob Seymour

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