

- 800 Trends and Levels of Air Pollution in New York City. M.M. Braverman.
Am. Ind. Hyg. Assn. J. 28, 291-293 (May-June, 1967).

Gaseous pollutants that emanate chiefly from motor vehicles for which adequate control devices were not in use, continued to show a slight upward trend. Particulates continue to show a slight downward trend. Evidence has been presented which demonstrates that more significant value may be achieved when absolute concentrations of gaseous pollutants are compared with their respective threshold level values. Six references are given. -- Author's conclusions

MANAGEMENT ASPECTS

- 801 Alcoholism in Industry and Your Safety Program. F. Hill, Jr., and E.J. McCartney.
J. Am. Soc. Safety Eng. 12, 9-11 (July, 1967).

Alcoholism, as an industrial problem, has been grossly overlooked by most management groups. Its seriousness is especially acute from the standpoint of developing and maintaining an effective safety program. It takes only one or more isolated alcoholics to wreck an otherwise excellent plant safety record. The latest figures on alcoholism show that three and one half million employed persons are alcoholics or have a drinking problem. It is estimated that one of 14 drink are so affected, with an estimated cost of alcoholism to industry of approximately two billion dollars per year. Principle cost items are absenteeism, accidents, workmen's compensation, health insurance payments, and loss of employee efficiency. Another item is damage of product and equipment by the accident-prone alcoholic employee. Alcoholism is the fourth largest health problem in the United States and is exceeded only by cancer, heart disease, and mental illness. In many cases it has been found that the alcoholic employee will set up a situation whereby another employee will become involved in an accident. Due to these situations, as well as accidents by the alcoholic, cost figures will average out about three times that for the employee without a similar problem. In traffic safety the alcoholic is involved in a disproportionately large number (about 50%) of fatal accidents. Because of indirect costs, this is an area particularly expensive to industry. Thus, alcoholism is a very real and live safety problem, although in many companies it has not been properly judged or evaluated. This is primarily due to a lack of understanding, knowledge, and interest on the part of management, and lack of information concerning actual costs. Perhaps one of the difficulties in industry is the common misconception of an alcoholic as a drunk on Skid Row. Statistics show only three per cent of alcoholics are in this classification. Ninety-seven per cent are either in industry or in the home and both of these classifications are driving automobiles on our streets and highways. A table shows the number of alcoholics employed and their absenteeism records. There are 11 references. -- Authors' introduction

ACCIDENTS AND PREVENTION

- 802 Psychology of Safety. R. Turfboer. Natl. Safety News 95, 52-53 (June, 1967).

Further accident prevention and improved safety records may result from careful individual attention given to people who are known to be high-accident risks. This means early recognition of possible underlying factors and appropriate help for people who are habitually or temporarily under great stress. Accidents are the end result of an interplay of many variables in which major life changes play an important part. Life's crises do not come and go unnoticed. Other variables discussed by the author may be more subtle. A person's safety, including our own, can be preserved to some degree by avoidance of security threats. Even after unavoidable ones have occurred they need not be followed by an accident or other health change provided proper counseling is available. It should be realized that what is a crisis for one person may not be a crisis for another. The stress potential varies greatly from individual to individual. Future research and applied behavioral science will eventually contribute to further improvement of safety records. The success of the next 50 years of safety efforts in industry will depend on a better understanding of safety. The paradox that some people forego safety to avoid insecurity must be solved. There are 7 references.

- 803 U. S. Accident Frequency Rates: Fact or Fiction? A British Eye View. N.T. Freeman.
Natl. Safety News 95, 42-45 (June, 1967).

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