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City of Detroit

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

July 17, 1942

Dr. Robert A. Keyhoe
Kettering Laboratories
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Keyhoe:

The City of Detroit has considered using petroleum tank trucks for hauling water during periods of emergency if the water supply should fail due to sabotage or bombing. The problem of hauling water which is to be used for drinking purposes in trucks that have previously been in the service of hauling leaded gasoline has been discussed but no solution was reached.

Messrs. J. A. Clark and B. G. Crane of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation were consulted by this department as to the advisability of this procedure and we were referred to you as being the proper authority on the subject to answer such a question.

Although we will try to haul as much of our drinking water supply in street flusher equipment and glass lined milk trucks, there is the possibility that we may have to resort to other classes of tank trucks, such as petroleum, to help out should an emergency occur. There is very little information on the danger of carrying potable water in tanks that have been used in hauling leaded gasoline, or the procedure required for their proper cleansing. The American Petroleum Institute Bulletins on cleaning tanks seem to refer to large storage tanks and stress the dangers of the workman engaged in the cleaning operation coming in contact with toxic lead compounds.

Therefore, if we may impose upon you to the extent of giving us your opinion as to whether or not this practice would be safe if proper methods were employed, it will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

BRUCE H. DOUGLAS, M.D.
Commissioner

P.S. - What is your opinion of the instructions given in the Sanitary Engineering Bulletin #1 from the O.C.D. on Page III of the Appendix?

By- *Andrew T. Dempster*
Andrew T. Dempster
Assistant Sanitary Engineer