

44—Boilers and Unfired Pressure Vessels

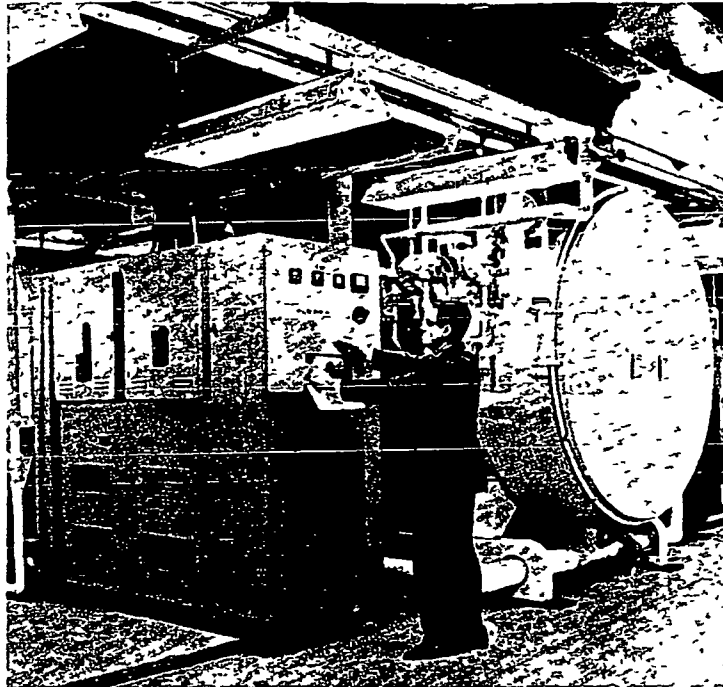


FIG 44-6 — Safety professionals should know enough about boiler room procedures to be sure their units have all necessary protection, and they should make sure that a trained substitute operator is always available

Courtesy National Engineer Magazine

Lighting In addition to being well illuminated, the boiler room should have a source of emergency lighting. Gages and controls should be especially well lit so they can be read easily. Well maintained flashlights should be provided for personal use in case of power failure, or other emergency. Exits, too, should be well lit and identified.

Exits Each boiler room should have two or more exits, one at each end of the room. If a boiler extends more than one story above ground level, the room should have an exit at the boiler runway or floor level for each story. This exit should lead to a fire escape on the outside of the building.

If the boiler room is in a basement (or sub-basement) exits should lead to outside stairways and runways, and should have landings leading to the exit doors.

Stairs, ladders, and runways Some state and local boiler codes require the installation of stairs, ladders, and runways around boilers which extend 10 ft or more above floor level.

Even if not required by law, such access is desirable so that personnel can operate and service the boiler safely and without having to step on hot steam or water lines or stand on valve stems or handles.

Stairs, ladders, and runways must have standard guardrails, handrails and toeboards. Runways should be fabricated of steel grating to provide a nonslip surface and at the same time permit circulation of air. Walkways should *not* be near water glasses or safety valve discharge areas where an operator might accidentally be scalded.

Boiler room emergencies

So many boiler accidents have been investigated thoroughly that necessary preventive action is generally known. Safety professionals should know enough about boiler room procedures that they can be sure their units are protected (Fig 44-6).

Rules for both routine and emergency boiler operation should be posted permanently and legibly in the boiler room (Fig 44-7).

(Text continues on page 1401)