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A PROGRAM OF PULMONARY FUNCTION EVALUATION

Why have such a program?

1. Resolution of an industrial hygiene problem.
2. Development of base line data and:
 - a. Its relationship to any future compensation cases.
 - b. Its relationship to maintenance of employee health.
3. Development of Threshold Limit Value data in conjunction with additional data on air concentration of pulmonary irritants.

What tests would be done?

Initial screening tests would measure pulmonary ventilation and include vital capacity, timed vital capacity and peak flow. These are useful screening tests for discovering impaired pulmonary function, but they do have limitations which essentially are all related to individual variation. An adequate history is important due to the subjective nature of much of the relevant symptomatology.

How long will such a program require?

The program should develop data on control and exposure groups. A control group of 300 to 400 persons is suggested. It would be desirable to select these persons from an operating area where there is no direct exposure to lung irritants; for example, the TEL area. It will probably be necessary to obtain a range of smoking habits on all persons tested.

A program of this type will probably require about six months from start to finish, allowing two days a week for performing the tests.



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