

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

port for treatment immediately upon being injured, regardless of the extent of the injury, has resulted in much headway in the reduction of infection and disability, and also in the avoidance of false claims of injury and disability.

A first-aid program should include the following:

- 1 Properly trained and designated first aiders on every shift
- 2 A first-aid unit and supplies, or first-aid kit
- 3 A first-aid manual
- 4 Posted instructions for calling a physician and notifying the hospital that the patient is enroute
- 5 Posted method for transporting ill or injured employees and instructions for calling an ambulance or rescue squad
- 6 An adequate first-aid record system

First-aid procedures, approved by the consulting physician, should embrace the type of medication, if any, to be used on minor injuries, such as cuts and burns. These are two examples where there is often considerable difference of opinion regarding proper treatment. In areas where chemicals are stored, handled, or used, emergency flood showers (Fig 38-4) and eye-wash fountains (Fig 38-5) should be available.

The equipment and supplies should be in accordance with the recommendations of the physician, and service should be rendered only as covered by written standard procedures, signed and dated by him. If it is intended to furnish temporary relief for minor nonoccupational ailments, such as colds and headache, the physician should specify the procedures to be followed. The limitations of lay first aid must be thoroughly understood.

The majority of states have medical practice acts under which a person is limited to a certain definite procedure when attending anyone who is sick or injured—except, of course, under the direct supervision of a physician. It is important, therefore, that anyone who is responsible for first aid have a full understanding of the limits which restrict the work. Since unwise treatment might involve the company in serious complications, the first-aid attendant should be duly qualified and certified by the Bureau of Mines or American Red Cross. These

certificates have to be renewed at specified intervals.

First-aid training The American Red Cross first-aid textbook and the United States Bureau of Mines manual of first-aid instruction are recommended for the teaching of first aid. It is often found that accidents occur less frequently and as a rule are less severe among persons trained in

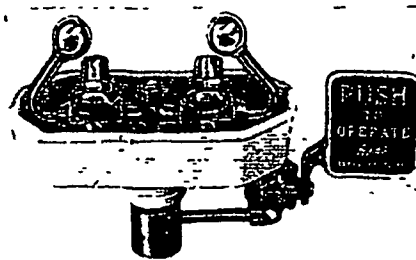


Fig. 38-5 Emergency eye-wash fountain

Courtesy Haws Drinking Fountain Co

first-aid work. It is therefore advisable that as many industrial workers as possible be given this training.

The National Safety Council publishes posters and pamphlets that can be used for training employees.

Another valuable reference is *Principles for First Aid for the Injured*, by H. Procter and P. S. London of the Birmingham (England) Accident Hospital. The book was published in 1962 by Butterworths & Co. (Ltd.), London, but is available through Butterworths Inc., Washington, D. C.

Medical records

Industrial medical records provide data for use in job placement, in establishing health standards, in health maintenance, in treatment and rehabilitation, in workmen's compensation cases, in epidemiologic studies,

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