CP² - DAG

Council learns about chemical drill

Members of the Kanawha County Emergency Planning Council Wednesday saw a videotape about emergency procedures at Union Carbide's South Charleston plant and heard plant official Mike McCready discuss a recent plant drill.

McCready said the plant held an unannounced drill June 3 in which the emergency squad was faced with a second alarm after they responded to the original alarm.

Because the simulated chemical leak was in the area of the plant's Emergency Operations Center, plant officials moved to a backup center at Union Carbide's Tech Center.

McCready said, "We found our radio system was having a hard time reaching the Tech Center." He also cited other communications difficulties.

"These aren't serious problems, but they are problems we need to work on," he said. The radio problem has since been solved by relocating a relay, he said.

The KVEPC is a non-governmental coalition of emergency officials from industry and local municipalities.

GAZETTE 6/20/87

GAZETTE 6/24/87

Carbide, 17 others sued for asbestosis

A Charleston lawyer has filed a class-action suit on behalf of a former Union Carbide employee and any of his co-workers suffering from asbestos-related diseases.

The suit, filed by Si Boettner on behalf of Jake and Maxine Noble of Dawes, names Union Carbide as well as 17 manufacturers of asbestos insulation.

Boettner said Jake Noble fabricated asbestos-containing insulation at Carbide's South Charleston plant during the late 1950s. Noble, who suffers from the progressive lung disease asbestosis, worked with as many as 100 others in his unit.

"He believed those people should be alerted of what has happened to him," Boettner said. He acknowledged that other former workers may have already filed their own suits in Kanawha Circuit Court.

While many other asbestos-related suits have been filed in Kanawha County and around the country, they often do not name the employer. Boettner said he believes there is evidence to show the company, as well as the producers, was negligent in not warning and protecting workers from breathing asbestos dust.