

Certain it is that work clothes should always be changed for street clothes, etc., and should be kept in locker rooms where they will thoroughly dry in air.

The re-used oil should be freed from metallic materials and should be sterilized.

The workers should be taught never to use waste to wipe oils from the hands because waste contains bits of metal and dirt which may break the skin and open the way for infection. It has been found that a magnet will pick up plenty of such particles when the skin is wiped with waste.

The workers should be taught to rinse off the oil, etc., under running hot water with the use of mild soap rather than to use the cutting compounds for cleansing purposes. This holds true for the use of kerosene, gasoline, etc., as before mentioned.

Because dermatoses form such a large proportion of all occupational diseases and are often disabling, one should be familiar with at least the more important occupations that are exposed to skin irritants. Complete lists are almost impossible because almost any foreign substance can become an irritant if it is in continuous contact with the skin. But it is always possible to have in chart form a complete listing of all chemicals used in your plant. To this list should be added a complete chemical analysis of all new materials as they are introduced into old or new processes.

Against such a list, it is then possible to check up on the substances that are known irritants or that are known to cause dermatoses. Substitute a non-irritating substance for a known irritant wherever possible.

Give the worker every possible protection against contact with a known irritating substance. In addition to the use of protective clothing, the length of time of exposure each day should be reduced by a system of alternation of work.

Provide for cleaning down machines, walls, benches, and other surfaces. Make this cleaning frequent enough to keep the equipment and the air as free as possible from scatterable dust and to reduce to a minimum the contact of the worker with oils, dyes, and other substances used in the operation.

Make floors impermeable and keep them clean.

Paint walls so they will show up dirt and so they can be thoroughly cleaned and have them cleaned regularly.

Wherever possible, have machinery painted to show up oil and dirt, and keep it clean.

Put the workers in washable uniforms provided by the company and laundered by either the worker or the company. Even the American Rolling Mill Company tried this out with men handling sheet metal and found it paid.

Have adequate hand washing and other toilet facilities ready available in convenient places and provide ample shower heads to take care of peak loads.

Either supply soap and towels, or provide a routine whereby each worker has his own. If a scrubbing brush is indicated, make it a part of required equipment but be sure they are not harsh.

Supervise hand washing, bathing, and the change from street clothing into work clothes and work clothes into street clothes.

Put all toilets, washrooms, and locker rooms in charge of a cleaner who does nothing else but keep equipment and rooms clean.

Give the workers sufficient time for the routine clean-up on company time; you will find it does not take long, once a system is established. You will find that the reduction in dermatoses with reduction in lost time and increase in efficiency will more than pay for the effort.

ADJOURNMENT



Dust Problem in Industry

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

October 6, 1933

The special session devoted to a discussion of the dust problem in industry was called to order by J. R. Allan, assistant manager, Industrial Engineering and Construction Department, International Harvester Company, Chicago, who presided. He briefly outlined the purposes of the session and then presented the first speaker.

The Mechanical Control of Dust

By E. O. JONES

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The speaker said in part: During the last few years, much has been written about the pathological effects of dust. From this material there seems to be some lack of agreement among scientists as to the pathological effects of these types of dust, their dangerous dimensions, the length of time one must be exposed to their inhalation, the density of concentration which is dangerous, and the extent to which they are directly causative or contributory to disease.

It is unfortunate that in the twilight zone between ethics and non-ethics, there are certain members of the legal and medical profession who are willing to take advantage of these uncertainties and capitalize on them largely for their own benefit.

When the foundry industry was confronted with the accusation that it harbored a potential health hazard, its leaders immediately took steps to study the problem, with the object of eliciting all the facts and determining upon a course of procedure to eliminate the causation. This study has been under way in some localities for some time, but its procedure presents many difficult problems.

The mechanical control of dust is not our only problem, nor does the accomplishment of such control depend upon large expenditures of money. We know from experience that gradually human ingenuity will provide ways and means to this part of the problem.

But let us digress from the subject to consider the amount of dust we as individuals create. Take the molder, for instance, who goes to his bench at the start of his day's work. He reaches for his air hose, and starts the day by removing, with its force everything he can from his equipment. In close proximity to his bench,