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wheels used for buffing and polishing vary in composition. Waxes and various types of abrasives are the major components. These materials, plus lin and fibers from the wheel, are the essential ingredients of the airborne dust. The toxicity is dependent upon the type of abrasive. Generally ventilation is provided to improve house-keeping and reduce the number of complaints and not because of the hazard to health.

Machining

Smoke from oily parts is the prevailing source of air contamination at machining operations. Illness has not been attributed to this type of exposure. As is the case with most fumes and dusts of the nuisance variety, little is known as to what effect such materials have on existing physical abnormalities.

Machining operations on steel produce large chips or turnings; consequently, dust is not a problem. Operations involving the machining of high lead alloys have been studied, and significant quantities of airborne lead have not been demonstrated.

Graphite which becomes airborne during the machining of cast iron is not considered physiologically significant, and therefore, is classified as a nuisance dust. Frequently management considers it advisable to provide ventilation for the machines which are productive of the most dust, as graphite on the clothing and person and surrounding machinery is conducive to many complaints.

Abrasive Cleaning

Since silica is recognized as the most harmful of mineral dusts, an adequate ventilation system is normally provided at the time of installation of commercially built sand blast equipment. Continuous usage and lack of maintenance result in a breakdown of adequate control. Visible escape of dust is the best evidence that this has occurred and it is advisable to correct such a condition without undue delay.

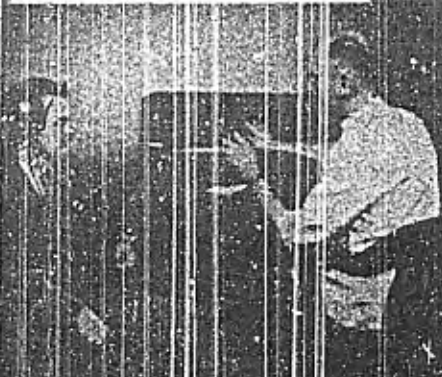
Employees who are stationed in blast rooms are dependent upon personal respiratory equipment. Devices of this type are of the supplied-air variety, and it is necessary that the air provided be free of harmful contaminants. Air compressors should be located in an area free of contamination, otherwise the contaminant will be transmitted to the helmet.

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