

~~MR. L. V. CRALLEY, PITTSBURGH~~

~~McC~~ SEPTEMBER 4, 1964

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

FROM INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE
DAVENPORT WORKS

To MR. W. F. KNEELAND
MR. G. H. WALTER
DAVENPORT WORKS

cc: Mr. T. B. Bonney, Pittsburgh
Dr. L. V. Cralley, Pittsburgh
Mr. W. C. Harvey, Davenport
Mr. J. H. Lowry, Davenport
Mr. B. D. Kent, Davenport
Dr. A. W. Shafer, Davenport
Mr. Ron Small, Davenport
Mr. G. J. Myers, Davenport
Mr. C. L. Huey, Davenport
Mr. B. T. Evans, Davenport
Mr. R. G. Wardrop, Davenport

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

AL-301

C O N F I D E N T I A L

RE: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1964

August and September meetings of the Davenport Industrial Hygiene Committee were combined into a single meeting September 3, 1964, in the small dining room of the Main Cafeteria at 12:30 p.m.

Attending the meeting were the following members: Dr. A. W. Shafer, Messrs. C. L. Huey, Bruce Evans, B. D. Kent, W. C. Harvey, and J. H. Lowry.

The noise dampening material has not as yet been applied to the ducts of the scalper chip conveying systems. The Plant painters have been assigned to a high priority job in the Remelter Area and have been unable to perform this operation. It is planned to apply the material on one system and evaluate its dampening effect before completing the job.

A letter has been received from Mr. Bonney outlining a procedure for sampling oil mist in Industry.

Messrs. Don Kunkel, A.R.L., and Herman Smith, Cleveland Research, and Mr. Bales of Davenport Electrical were contacted by Mr. Harvey after the last meeting concerning radiation hazards from the use of Beta Ray gauges. Mr. Harvey reported that these gauges presented no problem as used at Davenport if normal X-Ray precautions were taken.

Precautions for handling raw materials for the R325 process have been given Mr. Hansen of Engineering and Mr. Green of Operating.

ARD 044137

Wilson Muff No. 258 has been selected for use in those areas requiring ear protection as reported in the minutes of the last meeting. Further investigation will be made by the Committee to determine means of protection distribution to employees and extent of the areas exceeding threshold limits.

Engineering will proceed immediately with ventilating system improvements to the Coater House as soon as it is learned that the RA is approved.

Mr. Kent presented the attached accident prevention bulletin, copies of which he has already sent to the interested Operating and Maintenance people at Davenport.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

W. C. HARVEY

J. H. LOWRY

WCH/JHL:kk

Attachment

ARD 044138



ACCIDENT PREVENTION BULLETIN

NUMBER 237

September 1, 1964

RE: INERT GAS LEAK IN PIT CLAIMS LIFE--QUICK ACTION SAVES ANOTHER - ANOTHER COMPANY

Description: A contractor employee (apprentice pipefitter) was asphyxiated when he entered a pit, apparently to check for an inert gas leak from piping in the valve pit.

The welding on a piping system in underground tunnels and pits was being tested for possible leaks by using compressed nitrogen. After the nitrogen supply was exhausted, cylinders of argon gas, which were available close at hand, were used to continue pressurizing the piping during the test. Since the piping would not hold pressure, more gas was needed and the apprentice was sent by the pipefitter to arrange for additional cylinders of gas. Shortly thereafter, the pipefitter was walking to the pipe shop by way of the valve pit and, as he glanced into it, he saw the apprentice lying in the pit bent backward over the pipe. Another pipefitter, hearing the first shout for help, ran to the pit and started squeezing into the restricted hatch opening. At the same time, an engineer directed someone else to call the ambulance and then went to the pit. Another man ordered the air compressor started and a hose from it was handed to the engineer. In the meantime, another man was sent to cut the remaining gas pressure on the pipeline.

The engineer then observed that the pipefitter who had entered the pit had also collapsed. He then directed the airstream from the hose into the pit and then, with the air stream blowing across his own face, climbed down into the pit. While he was lifting the two unconscious men into upright positions, other men were ripping and sawing the form lumber from the hatch opening to provide more space for removal of the men. With this done, the pipefitter and the apprentice were lifted from the pit in that order.

Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was immediately given to both men. One or two minutes later, medical assistance arrived. By this time, the pipefitter was breathing unassisted. A doctor immediately took charge of the resuscitation effort on the still unconscious apprentice but subsequently pronounced him dead.

Preventive Measures: There are many safety standards and procedures that have been published outlining safe practices for entering and/or working in pits, tanks, etc., where there may be a deficiency of oxygen and/or the presence of toxic or flammable gases. Most such standards or procedures caution: Never enter small confined spaces until the atmosphere has been checked with reliable instruments or until adequate forced ventilation has been provided to remove contaminated air and assure an oxygen-

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efficient atmosphere or until men are equipped with the proper type of self-contained breathing equipment, safety belts or harnesses, and lifelines and attendants. (See MCA Safety Guide SG-10, "Entering Tanks and Other Enclosed Spaces")

--U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Case History

TO: Safety Directors