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Occupational Health Branch
400 University Avenue, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1T7

Telephone: (416) 965-3610

January 21, 1980

Mr. W. F. Hewton, Vice-President
and General Manager
Crane Packing Company
423 Green Road
Stoney Creek, Ontario

Dear Mr. Hewton:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Field Visit Report prepared
by Mrs. Ann E. Shaw, following a visit to Crane Packing Company
on January 18, 1980.

Yours truly,

P. L. Pelmar
Dr. Peter L. Pelmar
Chief
Occupational Health Medical Service

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Occupational Health Branch

FIELD VISIT REPORT

Date: January 21, 1980

From: A. E. Shaw, R.N., P.N., C.O.N.
Nursing Consultant

Plant: Crane Packing Company	Requested by:
Address: 423 Green Road Stoney Creek, Ontario Telephone: 662-6191	Date of Request:
Contacts: Mr. R. Mellikow, Assistant Vice-Pres. of Manufacturing Mrs. A. Prokop, First-aid Mrs. J. Torry, First-aid Mrs. D. Jensen, First-aid	Accompanied by:
Hazard: LEAD ASBESTOS CHEMICALS	Date of Visit: January 19, 1980
	Copies to: Mr. W. F. Hewton, Vice-President and General Manager Mr. R. Mellikow, Assistant Vice-Pres. of Manufacturing Dr. V. Tidey, Medical Consultant Dr. P. Belnear, Chief, OHB Med. Serv.

Abstract:

The visit was made to introduce the nursing consultant to the company and to provide consultative advice if necessary.

Several recommendations are made.

Type of Establishment

Crane Packing is a wholly owned subsidiary of an American company, Crane Packing Company. Head Office is in Morton Grove, Ill., U.S.A.

They are a manufacturer of engineered sealing products. Numerous sales offices are located throughout Canada.

Approximately 184 employees are employed; 50 salaried and 54 hourly rated including 20 females, working the day shift only Monday to Friday. This is a growing company with the average age now being about 37 years with the hiring of younger employees.

The union is the United Steelworkers.

Tour

A tour of the plant was provided by Mr. Mellikow.

The use of varsol, trichlorethylene and occasionally acetone by female employees was observed in the Lapping department. Gloves and aprons were being worn.

Employees working in the Teflon, Packing and Lead Fixing areas are on a medical surveillance program.

Eye protection is mandatory. Signs to this effect are posted. The wearing of safety shoes is encouraged with the company paying a portion of the cost. Safety equipment, such as, gloves, aprons and masks are provided. Ear protectors are provided for one employee who operates a press.

Medical, First-Aid Coverage, Facilities

Dr. F. Shapiro of the Wilson Medical Clinic is retained on a fee-for-service basis. Pre-employment medicals are completed at the clinic. Periodic medicals for employees exposed to lead or asbestos are completed at the plant approximately every 6 months.

First-aid supplies are located in the following three areas:

1. a locked cabinet in the cafeteria contains only medication, such as, Aspirin, Anacin, and Bromoseltzer. Mrs. Dorothy Jensen, who works full-time in the cafeteria, administers the medication. She does not have a valid St. John Ambulance Standard First-Aid Certificate. There are no medical directives for the administration of patent medication which is contrary to Section 52, "Medicine, the Health Disciplines Act, 1974.
2. A first-aid box is on the wall in the ladies washroom. It is not locked. Adequate supplies are maintained plus a bottle of A.C. and C gr. 1/8 tablets. It appeared orderly and clean. This first-aid box is in the charge of an employee who has a valid first-aid certificate. The certificate is not posted as required by W.C.B. first-aid regulations. There are no medical directives for the administering of patent medication by the first-aider.
3. A similar first-aid box as described above is located in the men's washroom. It is in the charge of an employee who has a valid first-aid certificate. Certificates are not posted.

There is a fourth area which is used by the visiting doctor every 6 months. Normally, it is used as a quiet room or rest area for female employees. Contents include washroom facilities, a bed, treatment table, stretcher and blanket. No first-aid dressings or medications are kept at this location.

Occupational injuries for cuts and abrasions are minimal. The main types of compensable injuries are strains, sprains and fractures.

Records, Reports, Confidentiality

A daily log book for recording first-aid treatments is kept in the factory office. The first-aiders inform their supervisors who record the accident and treatment given. No records are kept for the administration of medication.

The recording of non-occupational treatment by first-aiders, as well as occupational, was discussed. Such records or statistics are often indicative of trends of illnesses or injuries. This type of data can be beneficial as a topic of discussion when dealing with prevention.

I.A.P.A. injury frequency and severity reports are compiled monthly. The company utilizes the literature provided by the I.A.P.A. in accident prevention programs.

Department supervisors complete W.C.B. form 7 reports which are reviewed and forwarded by Mr. Mellikow.

Confidentiality of employee health records was discussed with Mr. Mellikow. At present the pre-employment medical results are returned to the company and filed with personnel documents. An interpretation of employee's health status would be sufficient for management. The examining physician could retain the file or forward to the employee's family physician.

Programs

All employees both salaried and hourly receive a pre-employment medical examination at the Wilson Medical Clinic.

Periodic medicals are completed approximately every six months on those employees who are exposed to asbestos or lead. Urinalyses for lead are submitted at this time.

Chest x-rays and pulmonary function tests are being done by the Mobile Industrial Chest Disease Service of this Branch every 12-18 months.

The Industrial Hygiene Section of this Branch completed an Air Quality Assessment in July 1978.

An independent air quality survey was recently completed by Environcon Limited throughout the plant. Results were not available at this time.

There is a health and safety committee composed of equal representation from management and union. The committee attempts to meet every three months. Inspections of the plant are made with the I.O.S.P. inspector from the Ministry of Labour. Mr. Mellickow is currently the chairman of this committee.

Recommendations

1. That the first-aid regulations under the Workmen's Compensation Act be reviewed with emphasis on:
 - General Provisions, Section 1, subsection (1) (a) and (b) (i), (ii) and (iii)
 - General Provisions, Section 3
 - General Provisions, Section 5
 - General Provisions, Section 6
 - First-aid Requirements, Section 10, subsection (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d) and (2) (a) and (b)
2. That the company refer Mrs. D. Jensen for first-aid training in order to comply with W.C.B. first-aid regulations Section 10, subsection 2 (a).
3. That medical directives signed and updated annually be obtained to cover the administration of patent medication in order to comply with Section 52, Medicine, the Health Disciplines Act, 1974.
4. That consideration be given to changing the procedure of handling employees' medical records. In order to maintain confidentiality of such records, management could request an interpretation of fitness with the examining physician retaining the documents.

Materials Left

- Workmen's Compensation Board, first-aid regulations
- Introduction to the Occupational Health and Safety Division, Ontario Ministry of Labour
- The Nursing Consultant, Ontario Ministry of Labour

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- Occupational Health in Ontario, Volume 31, Number 1, Spring 1979
- Workplace/Volume 2, Number 1/March 1979, Ontario Ministry of Labour

Materials Sent (under separate cover)

- Sample: Medical directive
- Copy: Section 52, Health Disciplines Act, 1974
- Data Sheet 4 Occupational Health Branch "Lead and its Inorganic Compounds"
- Data Sheet 19 Occupational Health Branch "Asbestos"
- Workmen's Compensation Board, first-aid regulations
- Copy: Acetone: Environmental and Industrial Health Hazards, R.A. Trevethick



Ann E. Shaw, R.N., P.H.N., C.O.H.N.
Nursing Consultant

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