



stville, New Jersey, April 9, 1980 17'8C

SAF - SAFETY AND INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH				
FIB	✓	BS	JFY	✓
RGM	✓		CHM	
HYG			DWM	
CWD			STENO	
FILE SUBJECT				

MEMORANDUM

Mr. F. J. Beall
Houston, Texas

You will recall our discussion during your visit last fall concerning scheduling people with punctured ear drums.

SAF-I.H.
OSHA

We have issued instructions that anyone with a punctured ear drum will not be permitted to work in an area immediately dangerous to life and health or in areas with concentrations of gas in excess of accepted T.L.V.'s even with respiratory protection. If necessary, in the case of people working off scheduled hours, we will call out additional manpower.

Presently, we are concerned with only maintenance personnel. Two of the three people involved are an Instrument Mechanic and a Machinist who work a considerable amount of shift work. The third person is an insulator.

We have also been advised that special precautions should be taken when handling asbestos. There seems to be a difference of opinion as to whether or not asbestos fibers can reach the respiratory tract through the ear canal.

If it is decided that this is a problem, we have considered having people exposed to asbestos wear cotton or some type ear plug if they have a punctured drum. This, of course, would be another personal protective device that would require policing.

We would appreciate being advised of policy in this matter and your recommendations as to how we may schedule employees with this condition.

R. J. Fischbach
R. J. FISCHBACH

JG-BJW

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