PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
MON-2914

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) D. D. Kos - O-11

DATE October 13, 1982

CC: Mark Riddle
PMSB
SHAC

SUBJECT Minutes of Hourly Safety Committee Meeting
September 28, 1982

REFERENCE

TO Hourly Safety Committee

Pervis Cotton - 33D
Gene Crain - SS8
Walt Middleton - SS13
James Nidiffer - SS10
Manuel Perez - 51D
Albert Solis - 2PD
Mike Westmoreland - AB1
George Williamson - 33D

The guest speaker was Don E. Kaldenberg. Don discussed the role of the HSC in safety concerns as a contrast to union/management concerns. He also reviewed the purpose of the LP&S Department and LP&S personnel responsibilities.

Dennis Kos reviewed incident reports on the two recordable injuries in September. He also presented a summary of three safety P-Bulletins: "Triennial Loss Prevention Reviews," "Out of Plant Pipeline Emergencies," and "Use and Control of Hoses."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Extension Ladder Securement of Rungs

- The Hourly Safety Committee worked with unit/craft representatives to identify a rung securement method which could be used easily by all crafts. The most feasible idea was the use of the plastic ties (carseals). If tied on both sides of the rungs, the securement should keep the latch engaged.

- SHAC will investigate the availability of long plastic ties of sufficient strength. Findings will be reported to HSC as unfinished business.

Physical Fitness Promotion

Information on facilities in the immediate Texas City area was reviewed--Lowry Center and All-American Health Spa. The solicitation of physical fitness testimonials from plant employees was not fruitful.

Assignments were made to locate physical fitness facilities available in Galveston, Dickinson, and Clear Lake.

SC 12583

Department 33 Safety Shower

A concern surfaced in a previous HSC meeting (July 27, 1982) regarding the need for locating a safety shower/eyebath nearer to the 33P25. This concern was recycled to the unit/craft safety team for evaluation. As a result, the decision was made to install a new safety shower.

NEW BUSINESS

Blind Intersection (Northwest corner office annex building)

- The northwest corner of the office annex building is a blind intersection for traffic going north. Even though the street is posted as one way to the south, bicycle riders frequently go north and have difficulty avoiding westbound pedestrians hidden by the corner of the building. Could a traffic mirror be installed?

- This concern was investigated by Gene Crain and Dennis Kos. There is a stop sign for northbound traffic at this corner. In addition, a pipe barricade extends six feet from the corner to provide protection for westbound pedestrians.

  After observing traffic at this corner, it was concluded that bicycle riders run this stop sign as a habit. As stated in previous minutes, bicycle riders are to obey all traffic rules, including STOP SIGNS.

  SHAC will look into the problem of bicycle rule infractions and methods of enforcement.

Breathing Air Hose Storage

- There appears to be a plant-wide problem related to poor storage of breathing air equipment, especially hoses. Often, disconnected hoses are left on the ground where they become contaminated and the fittings corrode. Shouldn't these be stored in a cabinet when not in use?

- All respiratory equipment should be properly stored when not in use. SHAC will look into this problem and report back as unfinished business.

Dust Exposure in Insulators/Carpenters Shop

- The insulators working in the insulator/carpenter shop have expressed concern over the high amounts of dust from insulation, wood pulp, and shell. The shell dust blows into the south door as the prevailing southeast wind picks up dust kicked up as vehicles travel on First Avenue. The ventilation in the building is not sufficient. This problem has been brought up numerous times with no solution.

- Gene Crain, Walt Middleton, and Dennis Kos visited the shop but were not able to see the shell dust problem due to a west wind. Investigation will continue this month. John Fox, of industrial hygiene, has been asked to look at the dust concentrations and potential health hazards.

Load Rating for 10 Qt. Galvanized Buckets

- Throughout the plant, 10 quart galvanized buckets are used to haul bolts and nuts from ground level to elevated work areas (scaffolds, platforms). The bucket handles have been observed to flex when the bucket is full of parts. There is concern that the handle will separate from the bucket, causing an accident. Should another device be used for transporting parts?

- Leonard Schwab arranged for load tests to be conducted on the 10 quart bucket. With the bucket overfilled with bolts and nuts (weighing 130 pounds), the handle did not separate, but the bucket body did begin to deform. With the bucket moderately full (3/4) level, the bucket showed no signs of strain.

  The use of these buckets for transporting nuts and bolts should be acceptable. However, the bucket should be inspected for defects before use, and should never be filled to point where parts could fall out as the bucket is hoisted.

Benzene Exposure Procedures

- In mid-September an incident occurred in the styrene distillation area which has caused some confusion about benzene exposure procedures. The carpenters were asked to erect a scaffold in an area which had a strong aromatic odor that could have been benzene. Two maintenance supervisors indicated there was no hazard.

  Still concerned, the carpenters called John Fox to ask for testing of the organic level and began work wearing organic masks. An industrial hygiene technician verified the need for masks. In this case it was too difficult to get anyone's attention.

- The incident occurred the week of September 13, 1982. Following the boilout/decontamination of 16D5 for maintenance, some organics were trapped in a plugged sewer line, resulting in the odor. The technician (Greg Escamillia) measured a maximum of 2 ppm benzene and 25 ppm ethylbenzene. Although these levels are well within OSHA allowable levels without requiring masks (10 ppm benzene, 100 ppm ethylbenzene), Greg Escamillia recommended the masks be worn due to the heavy odor.

  When in doubt, the proper procedure is to wear organic masks until the organic concentration can be measured. This can be done by contacting the industrial hygiene department. In addition, both Departments 13/14 and 15/16 have the capability to measure benzene concentration in the air by Drager tube analysis. If in doubt, check with the chief operator.

  This incident will be reviewed with Zone 1 personnel to ensure a proper understanding of benzene exposure procedures.

The next hourly safety committee meeting will be held Tuesday, October 26, at 1300 in the small conference room of the personnel building.

D. D. Kos

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