

518 Slight Rise in 1964 Job Injuries. Still Above 2 Million.

More than 2 million U. S. workers were disabled and 14,200 died because of on-the-job injuries in 1964, according to preliminary estimates of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Work injuries added up to 2,050,000 last year—about 30,000 more than for 1963. The number of deaths, 14,200 remained the same. For the first time in 11 years, the Bureau pointed out, the volume of disabling work injuries remained above the 2-million mark for two consecutive years. Approximately 85,800 workers suffered some degree of permanent disability. Some 95% of the injuries were cases with no permanent aftereffects. Job injuries produced an estimated total of 42 million days of immediate disability. This total is expected to rise to 172 million as delayed effects of serious injuries occur. Some facts concerning the 1964 work injury and death rate in various industries are: The single area of injury decrease in 1964 was in agriculture. There were fewer fatalities but more injuries among employees in manufacturing in 1964. In transportation and public utilities, work injuries increased at about the same rate as employment. Both the number of workers and the volume of injuries increased for contract construction workers. Injuries among workers in mining, trade, finance, service, and government remained approximately the same as for 1963.

-- Safety Standards 14, 6 (May-June, 1965)

519 Work-Injury Frequency Rate.

The U. S. Department of Labor reported a 5% increase in the manufacturing work-injury frequency rate for 1964 as compared with 1963. The rates for all four quarters of 1964 have been higher than for the comparable periods of 1963. The 1964 rate was 12.7 compared with 12.1 for the previous year. The U. S. Bureau of Mines reported that the frequency rate for rock- and coal-fall fatalities in bituminous coal mines dropped to 0.47 in 1964 as compared with 0.51 in 1963. However, the bureau reported a rate of 1.14 for mines employing 14 or fewer persons underground, compared with 0.60 for the larger mines. The smaller mines which produced only about 25% of the tonnage, sustained 30% of the total number of the bituminous coal industry's underground fatalities. The bureau's conclusion was: "the abnormally high percentage of the total deaths brought about by falls in mines employing fewer than 15 men points to the need for more rigid enforcement of safety regulations in this class of mines."

-- Natl. Safety News 91, 37 (May, 1965)

520 Industrial Solvents Air Pollution Target.

The Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is assembling information on which to base a major step toward clearing the atmosphere of eye-irritating pollutants—reducing the volume of solvents which evaporate into the air in the Los Angeles area each day. Industrial cleaning solvents would be involved. A spokesman for the local APCD estimates that some 500 tons of solvents of various kinds—from degreasing plants, painting operations, industrial cleaning, etc.—evaporate each day. They vary in their ability to produce eye irritation. The APCD is attempting to grade them, using automobile exhaust gas as an index of 100. It is estimated that some 1,340 plants of various kinds would be affected by any regulation which may eventually be issued to cover the situation. One unresolved factor is establishment of a point at which a plant would be considered to be producing enough of a volume of evaporated solvent to be required to control it. The spokesman said it might be 100 pounds of evaporation per day. Method of controlling evaporation, should a rule be issued, would be left up to individual establishments. Sources in the Los Angeles area aerospace industry suggested as an example that vapors from such solvents as trichloroethylene would have to be passed through charcoal. The APCD expects to present its data on solvent evaporation to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors at a future date and request issuance of a regulation to cover the problem.

-- Contamination Control 4, 6-7 (May, 1965)

521 Pest Residues in Food.

Pest residues in the U. S. food supply are insignificant from a health standpoint, according to the latest "total diet" studies by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Levels found in test samples were generally less than 1% of the safe legal tolerance, FDA says, adding that many of the most commonly used pesticides were not found at all. The studies are made on market-basket samples of groceries collected from stores in three major cities. Groceries