

Monsanto

FROM D. L. Gendron

CC

DATE May 16, 1975

SUBJECT QUARTERLY NOTIFICATION OF VCM HAZARDS

REFERENCE

TO

H. Williams

In accordance with paragraph g (1) of the OSHA VCM exposure standard, the purpose of this memorandum is to remind you of the hazards of VCM and the purpose, proper use and limitations of respirators.

HAZARDS OF VCM

VCM is an anesthetic and its vapor produces acute symptoms similar to those of hospital anesthetics, such as dizziness, disorientation and drowsiness. Severe exposure may lead to more serious effects. The after effects of an acute exposure are minor and disappear quickly. Liquid VCM may cause frostbite if allowed to contact and then evaporate from skin. Over a period of years, repeated exposure to high concentrations of VCM vapor may cause certain types of cancer.

PURPOSE, USE AND LIMITATIONS OF RESPIRATORS

Our respirators are designed to isolate you from the VCM in the workplace atmosphere and to provide you with an alternate, VCM-free atmosphere to breathe. Proper use of our respirators is described in detail in SDP 84-618.02, "Use of Supplied-Air Respirator System", which is posted throughout the operating area. The respirators will adequately protect you from VCM vapors only if used and cared for in accordance with this SDP. In addition, they require a constant supply of VCM-free air, and even with an adequate air supply will not provide the desired degree of protection in atmospheres which contain more than 3600 parts per million (ppm) VCM. However, 3600 ppm is a far higher concentration than we routinely encounter in PVC operations as they exist today.

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