

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION)

A. H. Conrad

DATE September 21, 1983

cc. PMSB

SHAC

SUBJECT Hourly Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes of August 30, 1983

Mark Riddle

REFERENCE

TO : James Baker -56D J. W. Hughes -SS-13
Lloyd Caldwell -SS-22 W. A. Lowery -SS-10
Lee Derrick -AB-1 Duffy O'Briant -SS-9
Beverly Dodson -16-D Casey Yauger -51D

Five members were absent, either due to illness, vacation or working the midnight shift. You are encouraged to send a substitute in the event that you are unable to attend the monthly meeting.)

The meeting began with a very thorough explanation by Don Treleaven of the mechanical condition of the ammonia storage tanks. Don compared the history of the existing Texas City tanks to those at Chocolate Bayou and Seal Sands. He discussed the significance of acoustical emission testing, test findings and plans for continued monitoring. He concluded that internal inspection of the large storage tank on the North 68 property was not needed until late 1984 or early 1985.

OLD BUSINESSNSI

Concerns for safely handling NSI were brought up again. The committee feels that the concerns previously raised have not been adequately answered.

Action

It was agreed that we need to better define the concerns before they can be addressed. The concerns were divided into two categories - general and specific.

The general concern was stated as follows: "Initially, NSI was portrayed as a very hazardous substance and many rules were established regarding the handling, protection and health care involved with the material. Now, there is a laxity in enforcing the rules and, in fact, work procedures have been changed which are less demanding than previous rules."

Specific concerns are:

- Laborers handling NSI are required to wear protective clothing. Others are not.
- Laborers are provided with adequate change of clothing facilities. Others are not.

SC

001683

LAM002885

- Laborers are made to shower prior to wearing clean clothing. Others are not.
- Personnel were required to report to first aid when contaminated with any quantity of NSI. Now they are not.
- The paper overgarments furnished to craftsmen working in the NSI area are unsatisfactory. They are light weight, tear very easily, do not allow one to carry tools like cloth coveralls, and do not support wearing a tool belt.
- The changeout room is very small and clean clothes are kept in the same room as the contaminated clothing.
- There are no shower facilities for carpenters and other craftsmen exposed to NSI. Personnel are frequently observed with parts of their skin and hair yellow from NSI and allowed to continue working with no shower.
- There are no restroom facilities for personnel working in NSI area. They have been told not to use existing restrooms when contaminated, but never told which one they can use.

These concerns have been given to the Manufacturing Superintendent responsible for the NSI area. He and maintenance supervision conducted a safety meeting on September 9 for all craftsmen working in the NSI area. The Superintendent will also discuss the matter with the Hourly Safety Committee at the next meeting on September 27.

Resuscitators

There are insufficient resuscitators in the plant, particularly in the shops building and other maintenance work areas.

Action

LP&S has investigated the need for additional resuscitators in the plant. Their conclusion is that mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is more effective and requires less refresher training, than resuscitators; therefore, we should not increase the number of resuscitators in the plant.

Rigs Entering Operating Areas

Is there a standard procedure for rigs entering a unit? Which leadman should sign permits issued to rigs? If a rig is sitting in the road and has a permit to operate, does a new permit have to be issued if the rig swings into the battery limits of an operating unit?

Action

Discussed with maintenance supervision and obtained the following answer: The east plant has a standard procedure. All other units require clearance by the chief operator.

The operating engineer leadman signs permits issued to rigs.

No, a new permit does not have to be issued.

Aerosol Spray for Testing Mask Fit

The chemical, DOP, used in the aerosol spray to test mask fit is unsafe.

Action

Discussed with LP&S. They are aware of the concern associated with DOP. However, the concentration is so low the risk of using DOP is negligible. LP&S is looking for a substitute and will change to a new aerosol just as soon as a suitable one is found.

NEW BUSINESS

First Aid

Units that make, use, or handle hazardous chemicals should have simplified first aid procedures displayed in such a way that anyone can administer first aid by following the procedures. They should also have repetitive first aid training. A follow-on to this concern was plans for giving ECA's in the plant refresher training.

Action

The HCN complex, AN-5 and Lactic Acid units all have first aid procedures for HCN poisoning. These procedures are readily available in the Operating Manual. These units also have repetitive training in HCN first aid procedures.

Refresher training for the ECA's was discussed with LP&S. They are currently developing a program to conduct the refresher training.

Unit/Craft Safety Representative Training

What is the possibility of having training prior to starting the assignment or immediately after assignment. Current practice is to conduct training about mid-way through the term.

Action

Discussed with LP&S. The training dates are set to avoid conflicts with the vacation period, hunting season, holidays, etc. LP&S will look at changing the dates. One alternative is to change the dates of the term each member serves.

Asbestos Pick-Up

Operators were assigned clean up duties after Hurricane Alicia. Many were exposed to asbestos and not given adequate training or proper protective equipment.

Action

Discussed with LP&S and Industrial Hygiene. Almost all of the asbestos was confined to the east plant. Contractors and Monsanto insulators, wearing proper protective clothing, were used to pick up the asbestos in the east plant. Industrial Hygiene personnel monitored areas throughout the plant and found no significant problems.

Methanol Compressor Insulation Job

Steam was lined up to the 44C201 before insulation was complete. The working conditions due to the extreme heat in the area were almost unbearable.

Action

Brought concern to the attention of both Operating and Maintenance Supervision. The actions taken to start up the compressor was a conscious one and a practice normally followed in the plant. The machine had been partially insulated and supervision determined that there was no burn hazard. Since the procedure that was followed was standard, the heat was not considered prior to the decision to proceed with the work. It has been suggested that an appropriate task for one of the unit/craft safety teams is to review this procedure and make recommendations for minimizing the heat under similar circumstances.


Harry Conrad

/jp

SC

001686

LAM002888