

3. With further reference to the above guides, it was decided by the committee that an initial circulation should be made of the guides to all division heads upon our

receipt of them. Anyone desiring to record any specific information from one of them for departmental use would, therefore, have an immediate opportunity to do so.

4. A review of our experience thus far this year with reference to employees being stricken or overcome due to abnormalities in their working atmosphere showed one chlorine case which was experienced on January 23rd in our Remelter Division. The victim was a Remelter man; and at the time of his exposure, he was helping unload ingots in a boxcar. The D C Operator charged with the responsibility of No. 1 Holding Hearth had failed to close a valve. The Accident Investigation Report submitted by the Remelter Division to the Safety Department indicated that the Operator was reprimanded; and fortunately the chlorine victim, even though suffering with bronchitis at the time, experienced no permanent ill effects.

An entirely different type case was reported and discussed involving one of our Welders which occurred July 2nd of this year. The man while using a cutting torch inside No. 20 Batch Furnace was stricken. The initial report in connection with this case was erroneous in that he was supposedly "overcome by DX gas fumes." An investigation of the case immediately following the incident disclosed that the man's condition was brought about by insufficient oxygen. Such situation was due to a combination of two factors. First, the Pyrometric Department had failed to shut off the DX units of this furnace prior to the incident; and second, no provisions were made at the start to purge the furnace. Such was especially necessary in this case as this furnace is equipped with doors at only one end.

As a follow-through to this incident C. R. Corr issued a memorandum to all Mechanical Maintenance Supervisors and Foremen⁺ with regard to their future responsibilities in this respect. A copy of this memorandum is attached for reference. The committee is in complete concurrence with his instructions but offers one further recommendation for consideration. It is understood that the Pyrometric Department is equipped with instruments whereby they can quite readily take an air sample and determine its degree of safety. The practicability of utilizing this service should be further considered.

ARD 044238

*Orest Egg? May be interested in Bescharoch's Tyrite
Oxygen Indicator " (35) .*

5. The Chemical Lab's report of August 3rd on the methanol vapor concentrations at the spirit duplicating machine located in the basement of Building 808 was noted. After a thorough cleaning of the blower, duct extension, motor, etc., the concentrations are still well above acceptable limits. The Engineering Division advises that a work ticket has been issued for an extension to the hood of the exhaust unit at this machine in an effort to effect a satisfactory condition. Upon completion of this revision, another atmospheric sample will be taken by the Chemical Lab.

6. The committee was advised of a recent request to the Rolling Division to fabricate twenty sections of plate, such sections to be etched in chromic acid here at our plant. The possible hazards involved were reviewed by telephone with Dr. Cralley. After conferring with him, the committee is of the opinion that the job can be successfully undertaken providing the necessary precautions are used. A check of the existing respirators in use here at Davenport indicates adequate respiratory protection is on hand. Mr. Archibald of the Rolling Division has indicated that he will check quite closely with the Hygiene Committee and the Safety Department for guidance as this project develops.

B. D. KENT, CHAIRMAN

BDK:sw

Attachment 1

cc: All Division Heads

All Members of Hygiene Committee
Dr. L. V. Cralley, Pittsburgh Office

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

July 9, 1956

FROM C. R. CORR TO ALL MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE
MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS AND FOREMEN

RE: PROVISION OF ADEQUATE VENTILATION
WHILE PERFORMING MAINTENANCE WORK

There have been several instances in the past of welders or millwrights being overcome due to lack of proper ventilation while performing maintenance work on furnaces. In other instances maintenance people have become ill due to chlorine in the atmosphere while working on Remelt furnaces.

It is the responsibility of the maintenance supervisors and foremen to see that adequate ventilation is provided for maintenance jobs such as mentioned above and for any other job where in their judgement the ventilation is inadequate. In most cases the use of a fan will provide satisfactory ventilation. In an extreme case such as might occur in the chlorine room, it will be necessary to see that the maintenance people involved utilize the oxygen masks provided for that purpose.

Wherever the possibility of a maintenance worker being overcome or becoming ill exists even though all precautions have been taken, more than one man should be assigned to the job so that the person performing the work can be closely watched and immediate assistance can be given if required.

C. R. CORR

vd:sw

ARD 044240