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On the Cover

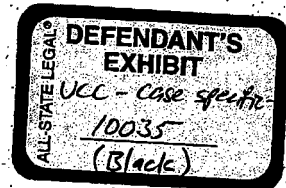
Colors of the sea
are orange and
yellow and red,
at that time of
year during which
Americans give thanks
to the bounty of
land and sea.

NEWS AND FEATURES

- page
- Inside Front Cover From the General President
2 Poisons Pose Health Threat
4 Special Notice to Life and Honorary Members
10 IBPAT Backs Social Security Changes
12 Labor Studies Center Boasts New Campus
22 Anti-Union Forces Use Scare Tactics

DEPARTMENTS

- page
- 14 The Sports Scene
16 Local Union-District Council News
19 Labor Beat
21 How to Buy
24 Canadian Labour
29 Financial Report



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The acid balance, or ph, of latex paint is determined by ammonia hydroxide—a corrosive poison. Improper handling of this chemical is hazardous.

If spilled on the skin, it can cause burns and severe irritation. Inhaled, ammonia hydroxide can result in edema of the glottis, causing breathing difficulties.

Still another hazardous chemical is Tyrosan PMA. This is a phenyl-mercurial-acetate mixture that is diluted with water and used in the processing of latex paints. Contamination on clothing or spilled on the skin, will cause tissue destruction and delayed burns.

Carlos Miranda of Paint Makers Local 1232 in Los Angeles listed several examples of workers who had unfortunate experiences with this chemical.

In one instance, a thin-down man was pumping this solution into a container. Mist and tiny



droplets irritated this man's eyes to the point that he had to go to the hospital for treatment. The worker was away from work a week, wearing a patch over one eye.

In a second instance, a paint-maker had a few droplets of this chemical accidentally spill on his arm. It was such a minor

spill, the worker was unaware of it. Later in the day, white spots appeared on his arm where the skin pigment and tissue had been destroyed.

In still another incident, a new man working beneath a catwalk had a few drops spill from above. The solution had already been diluted, but he washed his arm just to be safe. Later, blisters formed on his arm at the point of contact.

Glycols and some of the wetting agents used in latex paint processing have container labels warning of ill effects if spilled on skin or clothing. These labels should be read and must be heeded.

According to Miranda, the increase of chemicals and poisonous substances into the paint making industry is multiplying the hazards and jeopardizing the health and life of our paint makers.

"We must alert our representatives, our International and all our locals to the need for instructing our members in the art of safety," Miranda said.

"Safety in dispensing, safety in handling, safety in the complete operation of mixing and dealing with toxic materials is essential. This we must do. This we can do," he said.

Watch Out for Toxic Materials

Accidental exposure to the materials listed below, presents hazards ranging from minor to extreme. The area of contact may be the eye, inhalation, skin irritation or swallowing. The hazards could be liquid, a harmful vapor, or a toxic solid. These materials have been listed to aid in safeguarding your self and to promote safer usage. When working with any hazardous material, use your dustmasks, goggles, gloves, and whatever safety equipment is available.

LIQUIDS	GASES	SOLIDS
Ammonium Hydroxide	Ammonia	Chlorinated Rubber
Alcohols	Acetylene	Pentachlorophenol
Ethylene Glycol	Butane	Asbestos
Alcohol	Ethane	Leaded Zinc Oxide
Acids	Methane	Red Lead
Hydrochloric Acid		Silica
Sulfuric Acid		Oxalic Acid
Hydrofluoric Acid		Sodium Chlorate
Phenyl Ethyl Ketone		Poly Vinyl Chloride
Phenol		Phenylphenate
Sulfuric Acid		Sodium Hydroxide
		Leaded Pigments
		Phenol
		Calcium Carbide