

FILE NAME: Painters and Allied Trades (PAINT)

DATE: 1974 Aug

DOC#: PAINT033

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Article from Painters and Allied Trades Journal

NON-CIRCULATING
MATERIAL

Painters & Allied Trades Journal

AUGUST 1974

LIBRARY
NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL
INDUSTRIAL & LABOR RELATIONS

PER.
HD
6350
P26
P14



A New Dimension in Job Safety—Page 2

ALL-STATE LEGAL
DEFENDANT'S
EXHIBIT
111-case specific
10033
(Black)

Convention to Kick Off Major IBPAT Safety Program

Our 23rd General Convention is going to be the kickoff point of a thorough fact-finding study of the potential hazards members of our Brotherhood face on the job. "We know something of where the problems lie," General President S. Frank Raftery has said, "but not until now have we been able to assemble the kind of scientific data we need to judge job hazards."

"I consider this a breakthrough day for our Brotherhood—a start on achieving our longstanding job safety goals."

Delegates to the 23rd General Convention in Los Angeles opening Sept. 9 will be the first participants in a major new facet of our Brotherhood's ongoing safety program to test occupational diseases.

Under terms of a new research contract announced jointly by General President S. Frank Raftery and the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), a mobile unit equipped with diagnostic and x-ray equipment will conduct a thorough study of our Brotherhood's members and exposure to toxic materials encountered in their work careers.

The NIOSH contract for studying job hazards was awarded to the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, whose Dr. Irving J. Selikoff is the nation's foremost expert on environmental

medicine. It was arranged in cooperation with the American Cancer Society.

NIOSH is the research arm of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) which was created by the landmark 1970 safety law. While OSHA is a U.S. Department of Labor division, NIOSH is part of the U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare.

"In a very real sense, the whole history of our Brotherhood is wrapped up in this project to improve the on-job safety of our members," President Raftery said in announcing the program. "To provide protection in the workplace is the reason our Brotherhood was founded 87 years ago—and while that protection includes wages, jurisdiction and working conditions, nothing can be more important than our health and life itself."

In expressing his determination to make improved on-job safety a top IBPAT priority for the years to come, Raftery described the new program as a major step in that direction—"and one we have been working on for a long, long time to make possible."

When the new mobile unit is introduced at the convention in Los Angeles, it will first be painted by members of the sign painters local there.

Many convention delegates have already received questionnaires on their health backgrounds to expedite the work in Los Angeles, since all delegates wishing to participate will be processed outside the convention's regular working hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Even with the mobile van's capacity of 20 diagnoses per hour, it

will take some time to process all of the delegates.

All information will be totally confidential, with the members tested receiving several regular medical benefits in addition to contributing to the better understanding of working conditions faced by our Brotherhood's members, it was emphasized by John Pecoraro, the IBPAT Legislative Director who has responsibility for safety and health programs.

Pecoraro said the tests that will be possible on the mobile unit constitute a thorough health screening covering every phase of an individual's health record. Results of these tests will be passed back to the member, he said, so that they can be kept on record by the regular family physician. Everyone tested will get a report from the tests.

Meanwhile, the member will be alerted to any condition which should bring to the attention of his

physician and the team of physicians conducting the tests will receive information only with the written consent of the member, Peralta stressed.

For the purposes of evaluating work surroundings of members of the Brotherhood, particular attention will be paid to those with 10 years or more experience in their

work. This is because a primary goal of the program is to detect exposure to carcinogenic substances, which have been known to cause cancer of various individuals exposed over extremely long periods of time. Contact with vinyl chloride, for instance, has been shown to show signs of cancer after 10 years of exposure.

After the convention inaugural, a mobile van will be dispatched to various District Councils and Local Unions under the direction of the General Executive Board, with the General Presidents for a given region working out the schedule for the mobile van in their areas.

In all, the compilation of data will go on over an extended period of time, with the original contract calling for the first evaluation of the program at the end of the first year.

What They'll Be Doing With the New Mobile Unit

Once the new mobile unit is outfitted in Los Angeles at our 23rd General Convention, it will take off on a pilot study of members of our Brotherhood in 15 to 20 locations, with about 800 members tested.

The first phase of the program will take one year, according to estimates by the Mt. Sinai Environmental Sciences Laboratory. This one-year pilot program will be financed by \$98,000 from NIOSH.

The program will be divided into three parts: A clinical survey, a mortality study and an industrial hygiene survey design.

It is the first stage, the clinical survey, that involves the medical tests on 800 members. At the same time, data will be collected for study of possible patterns that can be job-related in the causes of death among Brotherhood members. Every member of IBPAT on Jan. 1, 1967, will be recorded as a base for the mortality study. The development of permanent hygiene recommendations will result from the other findings.

The material exposures the technicians will be looking for in the various crafts include:

Painters (300 tests planned): for exposure to titanium, asbestos, lead and numerous other chemicals.

Tapers (200): asbestos, silica and titanium.

Sandblasters (100): quartz, lead and iron.

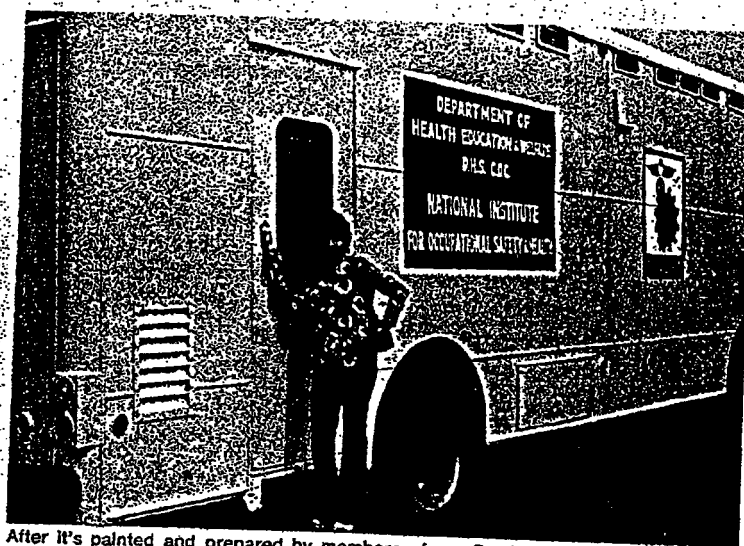
Floor tile sanders (100): asbestos and polyvinyl chloride.

Steel painters (50): lead oxide and volatile solvents.

Wood finishers (50): silica and wood dust.

Paint makers: lead, chromium, titanium and multiple chemical exposure.

Separate data will be recorded also on sign painters, paper hangers, glaziers, soft tile layers, carpet layers and scenic artists.



After it's painted and prepared by members of our Brotherhood at the 23rd General Convention, a new mobile unit somewhat like this one will be launched on its testing career.