

IN RE: ABRAMS November 1992

Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Headquarters Industrial Hygiene
Research and Development Center

Beulah Road
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15235
412 256 5847

May 14, 1976

BEDFORD INCIDENT

Sidford

Chronological Events

Wednesday - May 12, 1976 - 3:00 p.m.

- Employee Complaint⁽¹⁾; Plant Manager⁽²⁾ - Contacted Physician for appointment⁽³⁾; Complaint was shortness of breath and dizziness.
- Time - 3:30 p.m.
Clean Room - Operation failure resulted in accumulation of adhesive that required a cleanup by hand - 1,1,2 Trichloroethane used. (Methylene chloride normally used for this operation). Two employees complained of nervousness and rapid pulse. Employees⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾ saw doctor⁽³⁾ at 4:00 p.m. Two men sent to hospital⁽⁴⁾.
- Time - 4:30 p.m.
Industrial Hygien Laboratory notified⁽⁵⁾. Industrial Hygiene conversation with Dr. Delasalas (See Attachment 1)
- Weather Conditions
Inversion - Monday - not unusual
Tuesday - Clearing
Wednesday - A good day, however wind direction changed -- exhaust coming back into building.
- Operational failure of this type (Clean Room) occurs five or six times a year.
- No situation like this has existed in the past where so many employees complained with the type symptoms described above.
.(Chemical involved: 1,1,2 Trichloroethane in a 1-gallon covered can)

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OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

- Weather conditions could have created a situation where exhaust air could be coming back into the plant resulting in the other six employees complaint who were working in the general plant area outside the clean room.
- The general health profile of the employees in the plant indicates that pre-employment conditions exists which could become worse with the age of the employee and low level (non-hazardous) chemical exposure. See Attachment 3. This probably is the most alarming discovery.
- Labor relations might be a factor.
- In the future, one may expect health evaluation from NIOSH.
- OSHA Inspector indicated that he will call in results of air sampling and I.H.L. before sending a citation.
- Study being conducted in the Cumberland, Maryland area to study high incidence of heart problems.
- Employees have history of working on farms.

RECOMMENDATION

- Training - Employees should know what they are working with and understand hazards. Will eliminate reactions and psychosomatic responses.

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Bailey Adams Hildegass
- (2) Plant Manager Zimmerman
- (3) Dr. Delasalas
- (4) Turner and Miller
- (5) Dick Mitchell, Jerry Shilling, John Adams, Zella Heasley
- (6) Not NIOSH Approved.
- (7) Guy Shaffer and George Hollier
- (8) D. Cessna
- (9) Bill Ziefel to Zella Heasley
- (10) Heasley and Perriello
- (11) Leonard J. Renner
- (12) Lindahl, Zimmerman, Shilling, Nolvak.
- (13) Charcoal Tubes, Gravimetric Pump
- (14) Lindahl, Zimmerman, Shilling, Heasley, Perriello, R. Hart, N. Goldberg
- (15) K. Bodden, J. Shilling, M. Perriello, Z. Heasley
- (16) N. Goldberg, R. Hart, K. Bodden, M. Perriello, Z. Heasley, Lindahl, Zimmerman, Nolvak, Shilling, C. Kepple.

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Attachment 1

Dr. DeLasalas is the Bedford M.D. (814-623-6791). He called here for toxicity information on 1, 1, 2. After advising him of central nervous system depression and possible sensitization to adrenalin he agreed to hospitalize the two men for observation overnight. He will followup later with tests for toxic hepatitis. He was also advised of probable synergism with alcohol.

J. Adams

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Attachment 2

SUMMARY MEETING WITH OSHA INSPECTOR

- (1) Clean Room - Can not issue citation. Suggested new procedures for clean-up be initiated. And that the use of an air supply respirator during clean-up may be necessary for future incidences such as this.
- (2) Citations that will be made:
 - (a) Asbestos Products (Paper Products)
 - 1. No monitoring
 - 2. No record of physical exams (X-ray, pulmonary function)
 - 3. Storage Area - No labeling program.
 - (b) Respirator Usage
 - 1. Approval has expired on respirator furnished (can be adopted to an approved respirator)
 - 2. Slitting operation - Respirator (Flexafoam) not NIOSH approved.
 - 3. No written program for use, care and selection of respirators.
 - (c) He will wait for lab results (2 weeks) before making citation. Will call results to Bedford and Industrial Hygiene.

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Attachment 3

Ron Springer - heart
Ray Turner - heart
Clair Barefoot - heart
Bill Napaline - heart
Chuck Kepple - heart
Tony Steffler - heart
John Winyaudner - emphysema
Koontz - pneumonia and emphysema
Robintti - nervous condition
D. Cessna - nervous condition
Holler - blood pressure
C. Arnin - cancer
Bailey - respiratory
Adams - respiratory
Hildegass - respiratory
Shoffer - respiratory
Kennin - respiratory
Miller - respiratory
Ulgsong - heart??
Funy - stomach

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