THE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE AT LHC #3

The most important function for industrial hygiene is the protection of the workers. The first step in that protection is recognition of potential problems. At LHC #3 several problems areas are defined. The hazards of benzene and toluene are well doucmented. There are questions concerning the safety of exposure to butadiene, fuel oil, and dicyclopentadiene. LHC #3 has areas of high noise and there is a potential for heat stress in the furance areas.

LHC #3 is designed to operate under a guideline of one part per million benzene on a time weighted average. The plant design gr atly aids in keeping the exposure limits, however engineering is not the only means of achieving low exposures. LHC #3 has a continuing educational program to train personnel in the hazards and methods of handling the chemicals found in the block.

A key part of the role of the industrial hygienist is to provide a data base of worker exposures. Baseline date is collected by monitoring normal day to day operations. Jobs that have a high probabiality of exposure are defined and monitored. At LHC #3, sampling, barge loading, and pump repair are jobs that need specific job monitoring. Monitoring during a spill cleanup is considered as the worst case monitoring.