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U. C. LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

PUB 297

NO. 2 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY DEPARTMENT May 1979

Most Work Injuries Preventable

During the first quarter Laboratory personnel were involved in sixty injury accidents. Most of these injuries were minor and could have been prevented if the personnel involved had exercised care.

Common causes of injuries were improper use of tools, slips and falls due to inattention or haste, and poor lifting techniques. Work injuries could be reduced if personnel would correctly use machinery and handtools, exercise care when walking on our hilly and often slippery terrain, and lift properly.

Improper lifting often results in severe back strains which could be prevented by not lifting with the arms and back. Learn to lift properly by bending the knees and keeping the back straight. Rely on your stronger leg muscles to do the bulk of the work.

If in doubt about your ability to handle a lifting task, ask your supervisor or a capable fellow employee for assistance.

Park Well Off Roadway

During early April, a vendor's truck hit several cars parked along the Cyclotron Road curve just east of the Bevatron. This was the third such incident this year. In previous incidents, parked vehicles were hit on the curve at the intersection of "K" and "Q" streets just south of the SuperHILAC.

To help prevent your vehicle from being hit, park well off the roadway. This is especially important on curves and at hillcrests.

Emergency Calls - Ext. 5333

A recent radiological incident has identified the need to ensure personnel are aware of emergency procedures. The Fire Department, Ext. 5333, has been designated as the focal point for receiving emergency calls such as fires, serious injury or illness, serious vehicle accidents, explosions, serious leakage of chemicals or gases, and accidents with radioactive materials.

Due to the concern over the recent radioactive spill, the following actions are outlined for your information:

1. Evacuate and isolate the contaminated area. Secure the immediate area to prevent further exposure of personnel and possible spread of contamination.

2. Quarantine personnel that may have been exposed.

3. Notify the Fire Department, Ext. 5333.

4. Inform responding personnel of all pertinent facts of the incident.

Personnel should be aware that EH&S offers courses in radiation. These are "Radiation Safety Orientation," and "Radiation Protection." The course descriptions and scheduling information have been distributed to all divisions as part of the quarterly Health and Safety Education Course Information packet. Additional copies are available from Dave Woods, Ext. 5251.

PUB 297

Flammable Liquids Are Always Dangerous!

Flammable liquid vapors are heavier than air, and can flow along the ground for considerable distances while producing invisible, explosive fumes. They can burst into flames from a small spark some distance from the liquid, and can burn along the surface with extreme rapidity. These unstable properties make flammable liquids extremely hazardous.

Because they are common in our lives, we tend to ignore the dangers in handling and storage of these liquids. One important point commonly ignored is that flammable liquids should be stored in safety cans which carry the Underwriters' Laboratory or Factory Mutual approval label.

A flammable liquid is a liquid having a flash point below 100° F. These liquids are known as Class I liquids and are subdivided as follows:

Class IA - liquids having a flash point below 73° F and a boiling point below 100° F

Class IB - liquids having a flash point below 73° F and a boiling point at or above 100° F

Class IC - liquids having a flash point at or above 73° F and below 100° F

The OSHA maximum allowable sizes of containers and portable tanks for flammable liquids are:

Container	Class IA	Class IB	Class IC
Glass or approved plastic	1 pt.	1 qt.	1 gal.
Safety cans	2 gal.	5 gal.	5 gal.
Metal Drums	60 gal.	60 gal.	60 gal.

Shoemobile Schedule

The Shoemobile will be at the Laboratory on the 15th and 29th of May. Check the "This Week" calendar of the Currents for exact locations and times.

Chlorinated Hydrocarbons

Studies by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have indicated that animals exposed to several chlorinated hydrocarbons show an excess number of cancers as compared to control animals. These compounds are trichloroethylene, ethylene dichloride (1,2--dichloroethane) and perchloroethylene (1,1,2,2--tetrachloroethylene). Additionally, trichloroethylene is banned from use as a degreasing agent by the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District.

At present, there is no evidence associating these compounds with an increased risk of cancer in man. Nevertheless, we recommend that these compounds be handled with due caution.

All other chlorinated hydrocarbons should likewise be handled carefully. Less commonly used ones are also suspect carcinogens. All these compounds can cause central nervous system depression, irritation to eyes and skin, and damage to liver and/or kidneys.

Safe Work Practices

· Product Substitution--1,1,1-trichloroethane is the recommended degreasing agent to use at this time. Note, however, that NCI is now testing this compound for its carcinogenic potential.

Other chemicals that could be used are isopropyl or ethyl alcohols,and methyl-ethyl-ketone (MEK). Note that these are flammable.

· Contaminant control--use local exhaust ventilation or fume hoods.

· Personnel protective equipment--use respirators, rubber gloves, and rubber aprons.

· Air sampling of operation.

Refer questions or requests for air monitoring to Industrial Hygiene, EH&S Department, Ext. 5829 or 5251.

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