INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MINING AND METALS DIVISION

P. O. BOX 1949, GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81501

To (Name) Mr. E. O. Sternberg
Division UCON Inserts Department
Location Union Carbide Corporation
1500 Polco St.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46224

Copy to Messrs. W. C. Thurber
J. F. Emerson

Date September 26, 1974

Originating Dept. Safety

Answering letter date

Subject Safety visit - September 23, 1974

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SEP 30 1974

Dear Ed:

I appreciate the opportunity of visiting your operation and reviewing with you the safety applications conducted within your organization and those rendered by Linde in the facilities which you occupy. Discussion with your people and yourself indicated that primary possible safety problems you deal with are; 1) the use of electrical equipment (i.e., wiring switches, electrical installations, etc.), 2) gases, primarily piped compressed air, argon and nitrogen, none of which are toxic but under some pressure and possibly if allowed to accumulate in concentrations could cause oxygen deficiency, 3) the possibility of burns in the furnace operations and, 4) the use of mechanical equipment such as the drill presses, vibrating cleaners, etc. I was well pleased with the controls you have established for most of these items and noted in the Kemper inspections recent report of August 12 a general degree of satisfaction with the facilities and operations. My only specific recommendations are as follows:

1. In room 115 stock metal is stored on the shelves up to 9 or 10 feet from the floor. I am suspicious that material will be reached by standing on work benches underneath and request that you review with your personnel the proper access to high storage including use of ladders if this is the best way to go. The potential for falls, although rather low, does exist.

2. In room 116 the following items:

   a) The small drill press v-belt drive is inadequately guarded and should be put on the list with the other guards that Kemper previously asked for on the vacuum pump drives.

   b) The use of the semi-automatic bench drill press does encompass a few potential hazards. It was noted that the four handles that rotate will be removed to prevent the possibility of contact when the drills cycle automatically. It will also be possible to put

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the strip bar guard across the front of the rotating head which includes the various spindles to prevent any possibility of contact when it operates. I looked at the clamping device which is air operated and conceive that there is a finger crushing potential if the foot treadle is operated when a person's finger is in the jaw area. The air pressure has been reduced on this apparatus but it may be possible to reduce it further so that a crushing force is not a potential. I believe all the air pressure necessary is enough force to hold the insert in place. This is done primarily by the shape of the insert part holder.

Thanks again for your cooperation and hospitality. We will continue to consider your operation as part of the general sales function until such time as it will grow into a truly separate production group which warrants another review.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Piersall

EAP/brs

UC 149-2

UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MINING AND METALS DIVISION

P. O. BOX 1049, GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81501

To (Name) Mr. E. O. Sternberg
Division UCON Inserts
Location 1500 Polco St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Copy to Mr. W. C. Thurber

Date August 26, 1974
Originating Dept. Safety
Answering letter date
Subject

Dear Mr. Sternberg:

Thanks for sending your letter of August 13, and the attached safety inspection information. You mentioned the question of whether you should maintain a separate injury log. I did some checking and find that an "establishment" is defined as a single physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed. Where distinctly separate activities are performed at a single location each activity shall be treated as a separate establishment. I would feel that, based on what we are doing elsewhere in the Corporation such as in Technology groups, that your activity at Speedway would not be so different from the rest of the operations that it requires separate injury log. Hopefully there will be no injuries to report from your group on anybody's log. Perhaps this will be helpful.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Piersall

EAP/brs

1974

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JC 149-2

UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MINING AND METALS DIVISION • P. O. BOX 1049, GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81501

To (Name) Messrs. V. J. Bishop
Company R. A. Casciani
Location E. C. Gibbs
K. C. Graham
R. J. Klotzbach/A. H. Soeder
W. J. Kovack
Copy to F. H. Larrison
J. E. Massey
D. M. Pembridge
H. L. Piper
G. L. Schierman
J. C. Stephenson
D. H. Traufler/C. S. Jones
L. T. Waterland
A. W. Woods
J. F. Emerson
W. C. Thurber

Date December 17, 1973

Originating Dept. Safety

Answering letter date

Subject

SAFETY GRAM

On December 14, 1973 the bottoms of five of the seven coarse ore bins at Uravan collapsed dropping 1500 tons of ore onto the feeders, belts, etc., serving the Aerofall mills. This resulted in extensive damage to the ore conveying system and we were very fortunate no one was in the building; therefore, no injury.

These 17-year old bins are built with cone shaped bottoms welded to the bin walls. As the walls were weakened by abrasion this reduced the support capacity for the bottoms. Finally one ripped loose and resultant forces caused immediate failure of the others. The bottoms had virtually no support other than from the walls.

All locations with ore or product bins should immediately review the design and physical conditions of the bin material. It may be possible that similar (but not identical) design inadequacy in concert with wear could lead to failure. Bins and similar structures should be surveyed at least annually to assure their safe condition.

E. A. Piersall

EAP/brs

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