

HAZARDOUS PARTICULATES AND NOISE

THE TEAM APPROACH TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

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Occupational Safety and Health today has become a very complex subject. The requirements of the Act (PL 91-596, Occupational Safety and Health Act) have brought about a necessity for those in the health and safety professions to consider the total sphere of worker health. Often, in our hurry through our day-to-day activities, we adopt an attitude of corrective action rather than preventive. This has been no less evident in the area of worker safety and health.

If we are to be successful in our quest "...to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation; safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources...", we must adopt the "preventive" method of attack. This means that each of us here today, Physician, Nurse, Industrial Hygienist, Safety Professional and any of the sub- and para-professional persons who support us, must become more familiar with the part that each plays in this over-all plan.

In order to diagnose and treat a work related illness or injury, the physician and nurse should have some degree of familiarity with the hazards in the plant(s) which they are responsible for. To recognize an occupational illness, and treat it properly, is a prerequisite for cure. To prevent the recurrence of the same illness or injury, a knowledge of the physical and chemical hazards within the workplace would be extremely helpful, if not necessary.

Similarly, the industrial hygienist and safety professional need to broaden this understanding of industrial injury and illness. These often are the final manifestations of the conditions which they see everyday in the workplace.

In the design, development and presentation of training courses, we use the terms "Recognition, Evaluation and Control" to indicate levels and complexity of training. The preventive approach to worker safety and health, can easily follow this same scheme.

1. Recognition of the hazard and its medical complications.
2. Evaluation of the extent of the hazard, i.e. its concentration or level, and the diagnosis of the medical trauma it produces.

3. Control of the hazard, i.e. to eliminate it or reduce it to a level which will not produce permanent psychological damage and cure of the trauma produced by it.

By following this method of attack and working as a team, hazards in the workplace can be reduced considerably so that every worker may have, as far as possible, "...employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm...".

It is to that end that the NIOSH Division of Training presents this program today.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SYMPOSIA

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ii