

LOCAL UNION HAZARD CONTROL HANDBOOK

GUIDES TO LOCAL UNION HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAMS

- Noise Hazards
- Silica and Dust Hazards
- Asbestos Hazards
- Controlling Health Costs

Substitute for Health PERSPECTIVES

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LABOR SAFETY AND HEALTH INSTITUTE



*"To assure safe and
healthful working conditions
for working men and women..."*

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COMMENTS BY UNION LEADERS WHOSE HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAMS ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS LOCAL UNION HANDBOOK

Anthony J. Luisi,
National Association of Broadcast
Employees and Technicians, Local #16,
111 West 50 Street,
New York, New York 10020

Noise at the worksite is the most prevalent and nasty job hazard in our industrialized society. The program and strategy outlined in LSHI Guide #8 reflects the success of our local union in reducing offensive levels of noise. Coupled with worker awareness, the local union continues to strive for total noise abatement in view of management resistance and the costs involved.

The guide and handbook will serve as an excellent resource for every worker and local union faced with noise problems and the effective ways to stop them.

Edward Cross, Secretary-Treasurer,
Local 147, Tunnel Workers Union,
International Laborers Union

Even at this late date unions must still educate and by constant vigilance enforce existing rules relating to occupational diseases, since employers still put emphasis and priority on productivity, often at the expense of safety. Silicosis, while ever present in rock tunnels, is not limited to tunnel workers. Other industries and workers are also subject to silicosis. Guide #9 should be a valuable asset to any union where their workers will be or are exposed to rock dust or sand or similar mineral products where silica is present. Silicosis still takes a heavy toll, yet if the laws or rules were enforced, that toll could be cut. LSHI Guides can help by making workers aware of dangers and what they may be able to do to protect themselves.

Sam Meyers, President,
Local 259, United Auto Workers (UAW)

Our Union has developed and recommended procedures in dealing with asbestos dust emanating from used brake linings.

We have recommended the use of vacuum cleaners and wet cleaning methods, which would minimize the asbestos hazard.

After some struggle, the Employers, by and large, have agreed to incorporate those steps in their shops. We must, however, constantly educate our members, so that those safety procedures continue to be utilized.

This Handbook, which contains the LSHI Guide #10 on asbestos control, should be used by all workers and unions to begin the process of protecting themselves, their families, and the community from asbestos hazards.

James H. Mitchell, President,
Local 447 Printing Pressmen's Union

Due to misunderstanding and/or convenience by the membership, for years our health benefit and disability program was paying the bill for job-related diseases and/or accidents. This is not in keeping with Workers' Compensation procedures and was a severe cost to our health funds' finances. After two years of our screening disability claims and an intensive educational program, job-related injury and illnesses are now being paid by Workers' Compensation and our health and disability fund is on a sound, break-even footing.

In addition, the membership is receiving a two-fold benefit:

1. They are getting the higher benefit level from Workers' Compensation to which they are entitled.
2. *Their* fund finances are not being diluted by the payment of improper claims.

We hope this example, as described in LSHI Guide #12, will be useful to other unions.

PREFACE

The Consumer Commission on the Accreditation of Health Services looks with pride on the contribution its affiliate, the Labor Safety and Health Institute, has made.

During a time when occupationally related factors are becoming increasingly recognized as major causes of ill health, the publications of the Institute are very important informational and strategic tools with which consumers can evaluate the safety of their workplaces and minimize threats to health. The 1977 *LSHI Occupational Safety and Health Workbook* was very well received by consumers. The publication of the *Local Union Hazard Control Handbook* takes prevention of occupational diseases to the workplace.

The importance of LSHI's contribution was recognized in 1978 when it was assigned a seat on the City-wide Board of Directors of the New York City Health Systems Agency. In this position, LSHI can have an even greater impact on the delivery of health services in New York City.

Health care consumers and providers will benefit by reading these practical guides and other materials to see where their programs and activities mesh with these local union hazard control programs.

Donald Rubin, President,
Consumer Commission on the
Accreditation of Health Services

FORWARD

The passage of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended, and the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act brought hope to workers and unions that the workplace would soon be a safe and healthful place to work.

The past eight years has seen a very uneven administration of the OSHA Act. Few new federal standards have been established. The enforcement of all standards has been sporadic, often requiring aggressive worker and union participation to guarantee enforcement. Greater worker and union participation is required to bring about a more responsive OSHA Administration on the federal, regional and local level.

As the federal courts, Congress and the White House create narrower parameters for OSHA to work in, labor unions are devising their own strategies to detect, control and prevent workplace hazards.

This Local Union Hazard Control Handbook illustrates how four unions began to control noise, silica and other dusts, asbestos and health care costs. Additional Guides and related information will also be of value.

The combination of aggressive OSHA enforcement and the use of these strategies can begin to make the realities of the hopes which were aroused in workers by the 1970 OSHA Act.

Frank Goldsmith, M.P.H.
Director

January, 1979

SAFETY AND HEALTH

THE ABOVE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE BY THE MARKINGS.

