

LABOR SAFETY AND HEALTH INSTITUTE



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

AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WORKBOOK

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

Special Article: "Coke Ovens: Steel's Big Demon
Wins Again"

GUIDE #6:

Safety and Health on the Job:
Who's at Fault?

1977

\$4.00

Printed with the assistance of grants from:

**The Norman Foundation, New York
and
Center for Medical Consumers &
Health Care Information, Inc.
410 E. 62nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021
(212) 752-8558**

LABOR SAFETY AND HEALTH INSTITUTE

**381 Park Avenue South (27th Street)
New York, New York 10016
212-689-8959**

Affiliated with:



**Consumer Commission on the
Accreditation of Health Services, Inc.**

A NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.

The Consumer Commission's Board of Directors

**Donald Rubin, President
Edward Gluckmann, Exec. V.P.
Richard Asche, Secretary
T. Roland Berner
Lillian Bloom
Marshall England
Alice Fordyce
Florence Galkin
Frank Goldsmith
John Hoh
Herbert Hyman
Edgar Mandeville, M.D.**

**Hugh Pickett
Inder Persaud
Rosina Reilova
Lillian Roberts
Joan Saltzman
Bernard Shiffman
Sol Silverman
Joseph Tarantola
Milton Terris, M.D.
Eleanor Tilson
Benjamin Wainfeld, M.D.
Judy Wessler**

The Labor Safety and Health Institute is one of the most successful activities of the Consumer Commission. For over two years the LSHI has published factual documents for trade union leaders and their members on the dangerous conditions which all workers face on the job, a description of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the strength and weaknesses of federal agencies empowered to enforce its provisions.

Jobs are important to all workers. But more important is a safe job, whether in the plants, factories or business offices found throughout this nation.

Reproduced are articles which reflect the goal of both the Commission and the LSHI: health is a basic right which demands the full support of all Americans and the wholehearted endorsement and enforcement of standards by government. The Commission and LSHI are closely linked by our overriding concern to educate workers - consumers.

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

PREFACE

"As the Occupational Safety and Health Director for District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which represents over 100,000 public employees in the City of New York, we use these *Guides* and other LSHI materials as valuable tools for education amongst our membership, and in some instances with the City Agency Safety Directors themselves. The combination of local trade union educational materials with occupational health care issues are of particular interest to our union, since we directly relate the activities of our union's health and welfare fund to preventive health care measures. Since occupational health is in essence a preventive medicine program, that gives an important added incentive to the implementation of safe and healthy work practices in the many hazardous occupations in New York."

Charles E. Speiser, Director
Occupational Safety & Health,
District Council 37,
American Federation of State,
County, and Municipal
Employees, New York

"As Director of an occupational health program with a strong labor education component, I believe these *Guides* are a valuable and useful contribution to the occupational safety and health field. In addition, this information has the capability of being useful and beneficial to other health professionals in their understanding about this field."

Donald Whorton, MD, MPH,
Director, Labor Occupational
Health Program, Institute of
Industrial Relations,
University of California,
Berkeley, California

INTRODUCTION

Occupational health and safety are important issues facing professionals and workers alike in the health care system. In the near future, all hospitals should be establishing occupational health services as a regular part of their outpatient departments and emergency rooms.

In addition, health planning agencies should begin to use their powers of review and comment in ensuring that health care facilities begin to offer these important services so that job-related illnesses and injuries can be lessened.

The Labor Safety and Health Institute *Guides* on occupational safety and health offer all of those working in the health care system valuable information concerning occupational safety and health issues and how they can be incorporated into regular health-related programs. They should be read thoroughly and used in medical and public health schools in the training of all health students.

John L. S. Holloman, Jr., MD,
President, New York City
Health and Hospitals
Corporation

FOREWORD

The Labor Safety and Health Institute has published this *WORKBOOK* to be used as a practical resource to medical and public health practitioners, trade union education programs, students of occupational safety and health and others with responsibilities for the administration of occupational safety and health duties.

The Institute was established to fill the gap between trade union safety and health activities and medical and public health programs. The purpose of the *Guides* is to serve as a practical tool in explaining the everyday programs which trade unionists accomplish in uncovering, correcting, and preventing job-related hazards. At the same time, the *Guides* are meant to help medical and public health professionals understand the implications of occupational safety and health in their everyday work.

The *Guides* have been duplicated for distribution by the Student American Medical Association; the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Union; Rutgers Medical School; Cornell University, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations; Columbia University School of Public Health and School of Dentistry; New York University's Committee on Health Politics; the National Safety Council, and many others.

Duplication of materials in this *WORKBOOK* is encouraged with credit being given to the Institute. You're invited to make use of the Institute's library and other resources.

Frank Goldsmith, M.P.H.
Director

January, 1977

Table of Contents

Preface

Charles E. Speiser, Director,
Occupational Safety & Health,
District Council 37, AFSCME, New York

Donald Whorton, MD, MPH, Director,
Labor Occupational Health Program,
University of California

Introduction

John L. S. Holloman, M.D., President,
New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation

Foreword

Labor Safety and Health Institute Guides

- #1: An Occupational Safety and Health Library for a Local Union
- #2: Occupational Health Services in the Hospital Clinic and Emergency Room
- #3: Books, Pamphlets, and Articles for Your OSHA Library
- #4: Health Systems Agency: Planning for OSHA
- #5: Local Union OSHA Administration
- #6: Safety and Health on the Job: Who's at Fault?

Consumer Commission on the Accreditation of Health Services, CCAHS Quarterly

OSHA, A Means To Improve the Health of Americans, Parts 1 and 2, Fall and Winter, 1974-1975

Cancer and Jobs, Summer, 1975

Problems in Standard Setting:

Vinyl Chloride and Coke Oven Emissions

"Grim Lessons of the Vinyl Chloride Coverup,"
New Engineer, November, 1975

"Coke Ovens: Steel's Big Demon Wins Again,"
New Engineer, January, 1977