

WORKER OVERCOME BY TOXIC FUMES



INCIDENT:

A contractors employee was seriously effected by inhaling toxic fumes from one or more chemicals. The employee suffered breathing difficulties, dizziness and vomiting. He was later hospitalised overnight in the intensive care unit for observation.

CIRCUMSTANCES:

Whilst another employee was mixing 'Megapoxy' resins with an accelerator, the employee was overcome by fumes when the accelerator resin was opened.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Exposure of any person to a hazardous substance should be kept to as low a level as is practicable by the application of control measures.

Control measures are:

1. Elimination of the hazardous process.
2. Substitution of a less hazardous product.

Where the hazardous process or chemical cannot be eliminated or a substitute utilised then:

3. Isolation of the process - ensure other employees are protected from exposure.
4. All chemicals on site shall have a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
5. MSDS to be issued with the chemicals.
6. Ensure employees are trained in the correct use of MSDS and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
7. Correct PPE be issued with the chemicals and used as recommended by the MSDS.

The purpose of this circular is to distribute information about serious accidents and incidents, as soon as possible after they occur, to relevant mines within the state. Consequently the information contained may be incomplete. For further information contact: Mark Freeman (02) 6360 8329

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Sneddon', is positioned above the printed name.

N. SNEDDON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAFETY OPERATIONS

