

1-14-1932

Industrial Safety Bulletin Jan. 1932

Maine Department of Labor and Industry

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/bls_docs

Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Labor and Industry, "Industrial Safety Bulletin Jan. 1932" (1932). *All Bureau of Labor Standards Documents*. Paper 232.
http://digitalmaine.com/bls_docs/232

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Bureau of Labor Standards at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Bureau of Labor Standards Documents by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.



INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

JAN. 1932

There is no greater drain upon the nation's resources than that resulting from accidents. To lessen this drain should be the united effort of both employer and employe. Public Utility Companies have long recognized the importance of Accident Prevention work and by systematic effort have obtained most gratifying results.

Every industrial plant which carries on an active safety program within its own organization is a center of safety influence for the community.

FRED D. GORDON,
Vice Pres. and Gen. Mgr.
Cumberland County Power and Light Co.

Issued by
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Augusta, Maine

Plant Routing:

Superintendent
Master Mechanic
Steam Supt.
Electrical Supt.
Maintenance Supt.
Safety Director
Plant Nurse
Chairman, Safety Com.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

Please read thoroughly
and pass along promptly
according to this
routing. One idea thus
gained may save a life.

S-A-F-E-T-Y

spells

GOOD BUSINESS

We suggest that this cover
be folded back on heavy line
and clipped. Check names of
those you wish to read the
material in this Bulletin.

148172

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY - - AUGUSTA, MAINE

CHARLES O. BEALS, Commissioner

Walter J. Brennan
Edward K. Sawyer
Minnie E. Hanley

Safety Engineer
Inspector
Woman Factory Inspector

Vol. I

January 1932

No. 6

DO INCREASED PROFITS INTEREST YOU?

Mr. Manager, why do you subscribe to the many trade and technical journals noticed on your desk? Because from them you occasionally glean an idea for the betterment of your plant or process and the resultant increase in profit. A requisite to profit-taking is attention to the contents of these valuable publications and the prompt utilization thereof.

The Department of Labor and Industry is placing a technical pamphlet on your desk each month and its contents can easily be converted to profit dollars, just as other process improvement ideas are made to contribute to reduced operating costs. Because only the highest authority in the plant can set policies and get results from others in high authority this Industrial Safety Bulletin is sent to you.

Throw it in the waste-basket if you will. Compensation dollars will certainly go with it from time to time. Read it, mark interesting subject matter for the attention of the proper supervisors and you may be spared a regrettable and costly accident. The accident in eastern Maine can repeat itself in your plant unless you heed the warnings we set forth in our Bulletin.

In plants where phenomenal accident prevention results are being had these Bulletins are systematically studied, various articles marked for those concerned and the Routing on the inside of the front cover utilized to assure the complete circulation of this publication. We hope for a better treatment of this dollar-saving, accident-preventing material on the part of the many who now disregard golden opportunities.

NEW ENGLAND TEL. & TEL. MAKES OUTSTANDING RECORD

The November number of "Eastern Division Safety News", the effective little publication of the New England Tel. & Tel. Company, serves a very useful purpose and sets forth many effective warnings to the organization.

A compilation of accident experience is printed as follows:

Year	No. of Accidents	Lost Days
1924	24	603
1925	12	548
1926	8	402
1927	13	702
1928	7	476
1929	6	89
1930	10	397
1931 (11 months)	5	204

This organization is able to boast that every employee of over six months service has certification as a qualified first aid man. Mr. D. J. Desmond is Director of Personnel and Mr. C. H. Lavigne serves most capably as Div. Safety Supervisor.

SAFETY 'ROUND THE PINE TREE STATE

The elaborate and well-conducted First Aid Hospital at the Gardiner Plant of the R. P. Hazzard Shoe Company in Gardiner, Maine, is highly appreciated by the employees and serves as industry's best defense against infection's toll.

At the plants of the Tubbs Snowshoe Company, Norway, and at the South Paris Mfg. Company very ingenious "forms" are used to hold stock while on the shaper. These "forms" have a clamping cam arrangement and permits operators to keep their hands well away from the cutters.

Oxford Paper Company is using heavy screening with considerable success in the prevention of slipping on stair treads. There is much non-slip abrasive metal in use there in special shapes to meet conditions.

A waxy, protective cream is being used with great success in many of our industries to protect against chemical irritations, dyes and materials likely to produce dermatitis. Samples can be had by writing this department.

FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED

A crew were gathered around a fire built on the dirt floor of a shed. An explosion took place as the result of a dynamite cap having been lost in the floor, several workers being punctured about the face with metal and other material.

Some one individual should be charged with the responsibility of explosives and proper storage magazines provided. Actual and careful count should be made of such material as taken from storage and an accounting made following each job to proper parties. A capitalizing of the above instance should do much to indicate the seriousness of careless handling of such material.

An employee wearing long sleeves while operating a high speed wood-turning lathe had the cuff of his shirt engaged in the material and was stripped of his shirt. Had the fabric not ripped under the terrific twisting action a dislocation of joints would certainly have resulted. Another report shows that in stepping over a shaft carrying a protruding set screw an overall cuff was caught in the set screw and a fractured ankle resulted. Flush type set screws are cheap and indicated for all such uses.

A worker, pushing a gasoline-driven air compressor, slipped and became engaged in the drive shaft. He was whirled about shaft and suffered multiple injuries including a possible fractured skull. This indicates a failure of supervisory forces to anticipate a hazard and forbid such work while the machine was in operation. Guards over such shafts, even though short, smooth or slow, are always necessary.

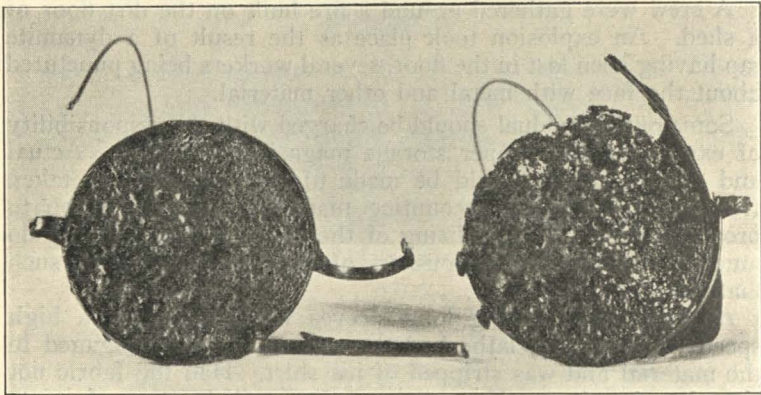
Employee reached into table apron on mixing picker and became engaged in apron, suffering possible fracture and severe lacerations.

Worker attempted to put tea bottle on a slasher dry pan to heat and clothing caught in shaft with the result that his body was badly bruised and a finger was amputated.

A sheet of paper became twisted in a Miller feeder (printing establishment) and employee's ring caught on one of the fingers of feeder, badly lacerating finger. Rings should be absolutely forbidden for machine repair men and operators as well as electrical workers. This resembled a paper mill accident where man had a ring engaged in a nail left in a core when a guide stick was removed.

A woman worker slipped on loose material about a machine and in attempting to save herself put her hand on an open saw. Another reason why such saws should be given the maximum protection compatible with their operation. Too often we find operators using but two or three inches of cutting edge and tolerating an exposure of twenty inches of the remaining cutting edge.

\$2.00 INVESTED—\$6000.00 SAVED!



**A SPLASH OF MOLTEN METAL RUINED THESE
GOGGLES—BUT SAVED TWO EYES**

Two dollars worth of metal and glass in the form of goggles saved the wearer of the above goggles his priceless eyesight. His employer, under the Maine Compensation Act, would have had to accept this as a Permanent Total Disability case and indemnify for 500 weeks or by a sum not exceeding \$6000.

The ruined spectacle-type goggles shown above are not entirely satisfactory as protection, the close-fitting, moulded-cup type offering far greater security. The type shown above permits molten metal, chemicals and the like to find its way into an eye from above, below and from the sides, whereas the moulded fibre, face-fitting types protect against it. Hoods are available to protect the entire head and face in event the nature or magnitude of the job warrants.

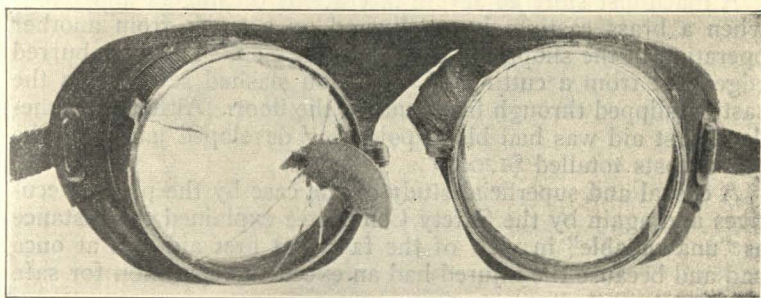
RESPIRATORS

It is not necessary for employees to be exposed to the disagreeable and harmful dusts so common to certain industries if an appreciation is had of the comfortable respirator types now available to meet every purpose and at a very low cost.

These vary from the simple cloth mouthpiece and the rubber framed models of the skeleton type (with cheese-cloth fillers) to the more efficient and elaborate rubber face-fitting respirators with filters. Masks may be had with hose attachments for the intake of air from a remote and unpolluted source. The latter are invaluable when men are called upon to work in the presence of obnoxious vapors, smoke and the like.

Safe working guarantees each New Year to be a happy one.

NO TITLE NECESSARY



GOGGLES ON THE HAT, IN THE POCKET OR HANGING ON A HOOK WOULD NOT HAVE STOPPED THIS FLYING FRAGMENT

The broken section of space washer from an emery wheel dresser pierced the heavy lens of the goggle but spent itself without doing damage to the precious eye behind it.

Management, supervisory forces and employees must subscribe to a positive goggle-wearing rule if such good fortune is to repeat itself in your plant. The Safety Engineering Service of this Department is willing and anxious to assist you in providing the most modern protection against your eye hazards as well as overcoming other types of hazard.

EASTERN MFG. STAGE SAFETY GET-TOGETHER

One of the finest safety meetings ever held in Maine was staged at the South Brewer Plant of the Eastern Mfg. Co. on the night of December 3rd when 101 executives, superintendents and foremen from the Lincoln, Orono and South Brewer plants met in the cafeteria for a banquet and an informal safety discussion.

Featuring the event were the remarks of Mr. Stuart Copeland, Vice-President and General Manager, relative to the economies and humanitarian angles of industrial safety. Mr. Copeland displayed a remarkable knowledge of his subject and quoted liberally of specific cases to prove his contentions. His audience was inspired by the fact that the highest plant authority was willing to lead the safety activities and were led to look upon accidents as a "breakdown of plant morale", preventable, regrettable and costly.

Mr. W. J. Brennan, Safety Engineer, Department of Labor and Industry, spoke at length upon the "causes of accidents" as contrasted to "causes of injury" and developed the responsibility all supervisors must assume if industrial accidents are to be eliminated.

Mr. A. D. Pomeroy, Treasurer, assisted by Mr. A. E. Doran, Safety Directors, arranged the affair and plan other such sessions from time to time.

ANALYZE YOUR ACCIDENTS

A machinist suffered severe lacerations on fingers and hands when a brass casting, just delivered on a truck from another operation in the shop, slipped from his grasp. The ugly burred edges left from a cutting off operation slashed severely as the casting slipped through his hands to the floor. Although immediate first aid was had blood poisoning developed later and the direct costs totalled \$1200.

A casual and superficial study of the case by the plant executives and again by the Safety Committee explained the instance as "unavoidable" in view of the fact that first aid was at once had and because the injured had an excellent reputation for safe working.

Let us examine intimately and in great detail the circumstances before and after the injury. The many and varied contributing causes make an interesting picture, one which definitely points out responsibilities.

The casting was very heavy, as indicated by the use of a truck to deliver the piece. The injured should have injected the "safety thought", utilizing the chain hoist to lift it into place. By handling such a heavy piece crushed feet, hernia, back strain and other injuries might easily have resulted. LACK OF SAFETY EDUCATION FOR THE APPRECIATION OF HAZARDS; FAILURE OF SUPERVISOR TO ANTICIPATE THIS HAZARD AND RULE AGAINST IT.

Because the injured failed to use available mechanical aids the casting slipped through his hands, lacerations resulting from burred edges. These burred edges should have been removed by the previous operator before delivery and should have been looked for by the injured employee. An investigation into this showed that although certain shop operations invariably produced such an ugly burr no instructions had been given to remove them as a procedure requisite to the completion of this operation. Several safety-minded employees had wanted to suggest that such improvements be incorporated into posted rules but had been curtly told to "mind their own business". FAILURE OF EMPLOYEE TO COMPLETE JOB BEFORE DELIVERY ELSEWHERE, FAILURE OF SUPERVISOR TO RECOGNIZE OBVIOUS HAZARD AND TAKE REMEDIAL MEASURES, IMPROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD SAFETY WORK AND FAILURE OF MANAGEMENT TO CHECK FOR THIS AND TO PROVIDE SAFETY SUGGESTION SYSTEM FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF EMPLOYEE IDEAS.

Lighting proved to be inadequate because of dirty lamps and reflectors, making it unlikely that injured could readily see burred edges in semi-dark surroundings. FAILURE OF SUPERVISORS AND MANAGEMENT TO MAINTAIN GOOD HOUSEKEEPING.

The resulting infection proved to have resulted from a failure to "follow-up" the first treatment. Injured had been told to report the following day by the first aid attendant but had failed to under pressure of shop foreman who was urging production to meet a "rush" order. FAILURE OF EMPLOYEE TO OBEY ORDERS WITH MAJOR BLAME UPON MANAGEMENT FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE CHECK SYSTEM IN FIRST AID ROOM TO ASSURE THE RETURN OF SUCH CASES EACH DAY OR OFTENER. FAILURE OF MANAGEMENT TO IMPRESS SUPERVISORS WITH FACT THAT FIRST AID TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER PRODUCTION. FAILURE OF MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE TIME FOR SAFETY INSTRUCTION IN ALL ITS PHASES. TOLERATION OF HAPHAZARD, INEFFECTIVE BULLETIN BOARD DISPLAYS. MANAGEMENT ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ACCIDENT.

What a large number of plant safety discrepancies, both in practice and in policy, such an accident analysis reveals! Safety success in 1932 cannot come until 1931's accidents are so studied and the basic reasons corrected.

HOW TO FREE WORKERS FROM SKIN TROUBLES

(Continued from December)

Season, temperature, and humidity, working conditions, and kind of skin play important parts in the prevention of industrial skin disorders. It has been observed in industries in which are found cutting oils or dust of various kinds, that when workers become soaked with perspiration there is an increase in dermatosis. Also it has been noted that dry-skinned persons and persons troubled with excessive oil (seborrhea) are more susceptible than normally oily-skinned persons. Probably part of the answer in regard to heat and perspiration lies in the fact that more dirt is taken up by perspiration. The individual, attempting to keep the perspiration out of eyes and off the hands, brushes his hands and arms across each other, across the forehead and the back of the neck, thus rubbing in the dirt. If the substance is toxic in itself, so much the worse. Moreover, if work clothes are filled with dust and dirt, then become perspiration soaked and oil soaked, very movement of the body as well as the rubbing with the hands grinds in the irritating substances.

When the skin becomes irritated, when bacteria from the skin are carried by dirt, grease, non-poisonous or poisonous substances into the openings about the hairs, the way is open for infection. When itching causes scratching with bacteria-laden finger nails, or rubbing with dirty hands, arms, or clothing, the skin is broken and germs find an open door to a fine incubator.

Wiping the skin with coarse burlap, waste, or cloths which contain minute particles of dirt and metal, or rubbing a skin covered with oil and dirt with clean waste or clean cloths, breaks the surface and the greatest defense of the skin against infection is destroyed.

In washing off the grease and oil, any mild soap is effective. The point is extremely important, for there are industrialists and even physicians who still believe that the prevention of this type of dermatosis calls for some special soap of so-called high germicidal action or upon the addition of antiseptics to the cutting oils or compounds. They take for granted that the main troubles come from organisms that have contaminated the oil, and lose sight of the fact that no germicidal substance known to man has been demonstrated to sterilize the regions under the nails where lie a variety of pus-forming organisms. It is probably these germs that are the cause of many of the secondary infections, as finger nails are vigorously used to scratch irritated places—places irritated because they are plugged and inflamed by foreign material.

The details and environmental cleanliness which are required for the prevention of dermatosis vary a little with the type of industry but, generally speaking, the employer who wants to control these infections will find the following precautions effective.

A change from street to work clothes before work is begun. Follow a thorough scrub-up with soap, running warm water, and a brush, with the application of a mixture of lanolin and olive oil.

A scrub-up before lunch, and after lunch another scrub-up and another application of the grease mixture.

A complete cleansing (a shower if possible) at the end of the day's work, and a change back to street clothes.

Have workers wear leather aprons to prevent abdominal irritation, and a simple clean band around the forehead (such as is used by tennis players) to keep perspiration from pouring down into the eyes, and to prevent contact with soiled arm or hand to wipe it away.

Keep all work clothes clean and dry. The frequency of washing the clothing should depend upon the amount of contact with dirt, oil, or perspiration. Some plants have found it pays to set up a laundry to handle underclothes, outer work clothes, and towels.

After work clothes are taken off they should always be kept in locker rooms where they will air and dry thoroughly.

Oblige all workers to report any symptoms of skin diseases promptly.

PREVENTION COSTS VS. ACCIDENT COSTS

"At one of our plants, it was necessary to start a temporary experimental job where one of the men had to work on a platform about 12 feet above a concrete floor. The men supervising the job did not consider it necessary to install a hand rail along the edge of the platform because this was 'just an experiment' which was to last only a few hours. Unfortunately, however, something happened to startle the operator; he stepped back hurriedly and in doing so tripped over some sacks and fell to the concrete floor below. He injured his back and suffered a compound fracture of one of his arms, the elbow of which was badly shattered.

"The direct cost of this accident amounted to \$2,751.77 including \$2,112.62 compensation award for permanent partial disability, \$334.87 compensation paid during period of disability, and \$304.28 for hospital and doctor bills.

"Contrast this amount with what it would have cost if a hand rail had been installed. It is estimated that the hand rail would have cost approximately \$10.00. Not more than that!"

Monthly News-Letter
General Petroleum Corp.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Governor's State Safety Committee

INDUSTRIAL GROUP

CHAIRMAN—Benj. F. Cleaves, Associated Industries of
Maine, Portland.

BUILDING TRADES—J. J. Maloney, Portland.

CANNING—Robert J. Peacock, Lubec.

CEMENT, LIME AND QUARRIES—O. E. Wishman, Law-
rence-Portland Cement Co., Thomaston.

COTTON—Milton O. Dean, Edwards Mfg. Co., Augusta.

LUMBERING AND SAW MILLS—Antoine J. Lacroix,
Madawaska Lumber Co., Van Buren.

PULP AND PAPER—H. G. Gilson, Oxford Paper Co.,
Rumford.

PUBLIC UTILITIES—E. P. Noyes, Central Maine Power
Co., Augusta.

SHIPBUILDING, MACHINE SHOP AND FOUNDRIES
—W. S. Newell, Bath Iron Works, Bath.

SHOE MANUFACTURING—R. R. Littlefield, R. P. Haz-
zard Co., Gardiner.

WOODWORKING—I. L. Boston, J. H. Dunning Corp.,
North Berwick.

WOOLEN—W. E. Nutter, Goodall Worsted Co., Sanford.

LABOR MEMBER—Harry A. Reed, Portland.

SECRETARY-TREASURER—Charles O. Beals, Dept. of
Labor and Industry, Augusta.

*Organized to promote safety, reduce
accidents and improve the health
of industrial employees of the State*