

Features

Chemical exposures increasing

Emergency squads trained

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United Press International
Chances of exposure to hazardous chemicals from a transport truck wreck or train derailment will continue to grow along with the volume of material transported daily across the United States, reports a specialist in charge of training emergency response teams.

In 1977, one of the last years for which figures are available, more than 14,000 accidents were reported involving trucks hauling some sort of hazardous material, and about 1,600 reported mishaps involved railway tank cars.

Larry Payne, who directs the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) program charged with training officials and

emergency squads, said such spills range from gasoline to more dangerous and exotic products such as chlorine, aluminum alkyls and anhydrous ammonia.

Scores of Houston commuters were killed or injured several years ago when a tank truck carrying anhydrous ammonia toppled from an expressway overpass onto one of the nation's busiest intersections.

The need for swift, safe and carefully planned action in such events prompted TEEX, a part of the Texas A&M University System, to develop a special five-day hazardous material control course at its College Station headquarters. Payne said the class is now virtually the only one of its kind in

the world.
The week-long course, offered on a regular basis, is designed so that students spend about six of every 10 hours in realistic hands-on situations — from a fiery truck crash to finding and patching leaks and cleanup procedures.

Although begun only two years ago, the hazardous material control course is now held more than a dozen times a year at Brayton Firemen Training Field, a 60-acre, \$7 million facility southwest of the Texas A&M campus.

"In many cases, the fluid found leaking in these simulated exercises is only colored water, but students are expected to think, dress and act as if the liquid were a deadly poison," said Payne.

In addition to the course, the TEEX Oil and Hazardous Material Control Training Division has contracted with the Chemical Manufacturers Association to conduct a two-day emergency response workshop at various locations across the nation.

Another spinoff of the unique course has been development of a two-day tank truck rollover school in which other emergency teams will practice controlling the material while unloading and uprighting the trailer. The truck rollover class was developed by TEEX with the assistance of Shell Oil and the American Petroleum Institute.

Hazardous material extension courses are also being taught by

the TEEX division as a part of the program, he added. The courses are oriented more toward the theory of contingency planning and hazardous material control, the instructors can only teach students limited hands-on training at their plant site.

During all this, Payne said hazardous material control has received enthusiastic support from a 19-member advisory committee chaired by a representative from Exxon Chemical and which draws other members from manufacturers, railway, trucking industry, shipping and other transport consumers.

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'Security blankets' are normal phase

United Press International
NEW YORK — In the comic strip, Linus hangs onto his blanket.

Real children also often form tenacious, persistent attachments to "their" happiness security objects. The beloved objects, soft to

the touch and soothing, go to camp and school.

Is the happiness and security object habit good, bad or what?

The question is answered by a team of doctors from New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College in a report in

Pediatrics, journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Drs. Miriam Sherman, Margaret Hertzog, Rochelle Austrian and Theodore Shapiro based their report on information from parents of 171 boys and girls at a New York City private school.

They said the study showed that the number of siblings, the birth sequence of the child in the family, the parents' marital status, sex of the child, the child's history of thumb-sucking, and ease of care of the child in infancy were all unrelated to attachment to an object.

The doctors said the evolution of professional ideas about a child's attachment to a security object follow theories about thumb-sucking.

"Despite early attributions of an association between psychological problems in children and thumb-sucking, later investigative studies clarified the fact that no correlation existed between psychological problems and thumb-sucking."

Similarly, the New York scientists said, they could find no significant differences between chil-

dren who were and those who were not attached to a treasured object — or in those boys and girls who continue to use such an object after age 9 years.

"This study," the scientists said, "highlights, once again, the diversity and richness of individual experience that falls within that larger category called 'normal,'" they said.

Until this newest report, other experts over the last 30 years have read all sorts of things into a child's attachment to a happiness and security object.

Other investigators have claimed: —Attachment to an object, in addition to being normal, was universal and even necessary for health.

—A link between the first treasured object and ego development character style and even the poetic process.

—Children who esteem their prized possessions excessively have disturbances in mother-child relationships.

In their study, the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical School

experts found three fifths of children with security objects preferred blankets and pillows over most of the rest had dolls and teddy bears.

Of the 171 children in the study, 54 percent reported to have been attached to a treasured object. Of that 49 percent maintained the attachment until at least age 9.

The doctors said the process of emotional detachment from an object is a slow one for a substantial number of children. The object may not be used regularly and resorted to only briefly on particularly stressful occasions.

A 10-year old cited in the report, for example, discarded his blanket but kept it in her closet.

"She had not used it for a year," her mother reported.

Another child, 7 years old, was soothed herself with a blanket she retrieved from her closet. She told her mother she was "nervous" and "scared."

That child needed her blanket, but left camp without it.



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Agent Orange blamed in Vietnam vet's death

United Press International
GRAND PRAIRIE — The cancer death of a 31-year-old Navy veteran — possibly caused by Agent Orange — may alert the nation that Vietnam veterans "never really stopped paying their debt," a minister eulogized.

Addressing nearly 200 people gathered for the funeral of Larry Hall at the Calvary Baptist Church, Pastor Earl K. Oldham asked the nation to recognize the "unsung heroes" of the Vietnam War.

"Larry Hall came to me a few weeks ago and said that if his death would help other families who are suffering from Agent Orange,

then he was ready to die," Oldham said.

"Maybe his death will alert the nation that men who served on the battlefield in the Vietnam War really never stopped paying their debt," he said. "Maybe now a nation, as individuals and a government, we can understand that we owe our men something."

Doctors say Hall's death, the learning disabilities of his children, his wife's miscarriage and the death of a baby are consistent with problems affecting other Vietnam veterans exposed to the defoliant.

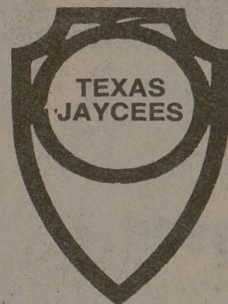
Hall, who died Friday, a few weeks ago recalled his Navy tour

of Vietnam canals aboard the Gunston hall in 1970 and 1971, remembered inhaling large quantities of Agent Orange, a chemical to defoliate jungle brush.

Mrs. Hall, who is now with two children, took a week job in a school cafeteria when Hall was forced to quit on a loading dock.

Several people have phoned Mrs. Hall, offering to help, but first she declined the offers.

"I don't like to receive help from others, but if people are enough to help, than thank and God bless them."



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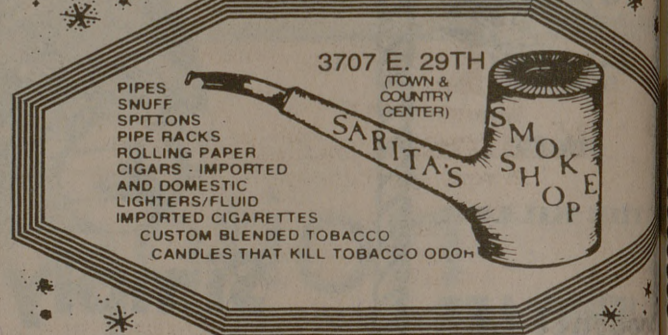
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