

loosened filter into the ensign's face. You probably thought I was going to say the car fell on him. It didn't, but it could have.

✓ An aviator's wife asked him to move a bathroom light fixture 4 inches to the right. Since it was a simple job, he didn't feel like he had to secure the power. As he installed the first mounting screw, the screwdriver touched the hot-wire terminal and the metallic base of the fixture. This created quite a blue-arc light show. The fixture was reattached all right, but only to the screwdriver.

✓ An efficient young Sailor was putting in new deck planks on his deck, unaware of a 220-volt surprise that awaited him. While trimming a piece of wood with a reciprocating saw, he didn't notice the three-phase, heavy-duty power line that ran directly under the deck. He cut right through it with a crackling blaze of blue. Even though the saw was insulated, he was left with a tingling, semi-numb arm and a racing heart.

✓ Finishing a drywall job, an officer was sanding the joint compound. It was dark in the work

area, so he didn't notice the cloud of ultra-fine dust that had filled the room. He was left with a dry throat and a hacking cough. It was only after the symptoms had passed that he bothered to look at the label on the compound. It read: "WARNING: Harmful if swallowed. Dust produced is known to the State of California to be carcinogenic if breathed."

What was missing from all these jobs? Common sense? Probably. Adequate tools? Maybe. The right protective gear? Certainly. If an OSHA inspector had seen these people at work, he would have suffered a stroke. And if your safety manager had to write mishap reports on these blunders, he would have thrown the book at all these people.

Being at home is no excuse for not following the rules you have to follow at work. At home, you have to be your own OSHA inspector. ❏

[Note: Remember that ORM applies not only to what you do at work, but to chores you do at home. You need to look at risks and ways to minimize them there as well.—Ed.]

Conference Time Again

The ninth annual Navy Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 9-13, 2001 at the

DoubleTree Hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley. It will be open to all Navy and Marine Corps safety managers, safety officers and industrial hygienists, and will feature exhibits as well as training sessions.

The first day of the conference will be claimant meetings, with general sessions on the second and third days. The last two days of the conference will consist of professional-development training seminars.

If you have any questions about exhibits, contact Terri Mosteller at (757) 445-8878, Ext. 310 (DSN



565), or e-mail her at terriosteller@cnet.navy.mil. For questions or comments on the conference, contact Jim Denyes, the conference coordinator. He can be reached at (757) 445-8878, Ext. 327

(DSN 565), or you can e-mail him at Navoshnor20@cnet.navy.mil.

The Navy Occupational Safety, Health, and Environmental Training Center has a web site: <http://www.norva.navy.mil/navosh/pdcpres.htm>. Visit it for information about the conference held in Norfolk last winter. In the near future, you will be able to view a complete agenda of the San Diego conference in April and register online for that one. ❏