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PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P09-40



FROM: LINDA F. ZEILER
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SUBJECT: CSE SR-MP Expectations Training Unit

Who needs this information?

Underground coal mine operators using the SR-MP Expectations Training Unit, Miner's Representatives, Industry Groups, and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) inspection personnel should have this information.

Why is MSHA issuing this bulletin?

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) is to inform mine operators and other stakeholders of an incident that occurred during training at an underground mine, and to reinforce the proper procedures to use the SR-MP Expectations Training Unit.

What is the background for this PIB?

MSHA received a report from a mine where some miners received chemical burns during a training exercise while using the CSE SR-MP training unit. Eight miners received some degree of chemical burns to their mouths and one also had a chemical burn to his forehead after handling a training canister. All eight went to a hospital for treatment, were released, and went back to work.

The training units used in the incident were examined by MSHA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and CSE personnel. Potassium super-oxide (KO₂) residue was found on the outside of the training units. After discussion with mine personnel and CSE personnel who visited the mine, it was determined that the exterior of the training units had been contaminated with KO₂. This may have occurred when one or more used units were placed in the same container with unused units during the training exercise. Other miners had used the same type of training units that day without problems.

Information

Mine operators must follow the proper operating instructions for all types of training devices used at their mines. The instructions, as detailed in accompanying Instruction Manuals, must be followed, paying attention to proper use, handling, and disposal procedures. Failure to properly use and dispose of the CSE SR-MP Training Unit can cause serious injury including burns to the mouth and skin.

Accompanying this PIB is a CSE User Notice reinforcing the proper procedures to employ when using this unit. As a further precaution, the manufacturer has begun making SR-MPs with a different chemical. CSE will exchange all unused SR-MPs with the new design at no cost to customers.

What is MSHA's authority for this PIB?

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 as amended; 30 C.F.R. Part 75.1504

Internet Availability

This information bulletin may be viewed on the Internet by accessing MSHA's home page at www.msha.gov and then choosing Statutory and Regulatory Information, Compliance Assistance Information, and Program Information Bulletins.

Who are the MSHA contact persons for this PIB?

Technical Support, Pittsburgh Safety and Health Technology Center

Dr. Jeffery H. Kravitz, (412) 386-6923

E-mail: kravitz.jeffery@dol.gov

Coal Mine Safety and Health, Safety Division

Eric Sherer, (202) 693-9523

E-mail: sherer.hubert@dol.gov

Who will receive this PIB?

MSHA Program Policy Manual Holders

Miners' Representatives

Underground Mine Operators

Special Interest Groups

Attachment

CSE SR-MP User Notice



USER NOTICE
SR-MP Expectations Training Unit

July 2, 2009

CSE is issuing this User Notice in response to a recent incident in which SR-MP training units were not used and handled in accordance with the Instruction Manual. Preliminary investigation indicates that units were used longer than the 5 minutes specified in the Instruction Manual and that these overused units or their associated mouthpieces were then co-mingled with new units. Overuse of the SR-MP can cause chemical leakage, which in this incident apparently contaminated units that were then put in use.

Users are reminded that **FAILURE TO PROPERLY USE AND DISPOSE OF SR-MP UNITS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY, INCLUDING BURNS TO THE MOUTH AND SKIN.** Use of units beyond the proscribed 5 minute limit can expose users to contact with the chemical used in the unit as can improper handling of units.

Users are therefore reminded that the SR-MP Instruction Manual must be read completely by all individuals using, inspecting or handling the SR-MP. It is important that all instructions in the Instruction Manual be followed.

In particular, CSE reminds users of the following:

1. The SR-MP is only to be used for classroom training.
2. The SR-MP is not to be used in conjunction with theatrical smoke.
3. The SR-MP may not be operated for longer than 5 minutes. Any operation beyond 5 minutes may cause injury from elevated breathing resistance, high temperatures on external surfaces of the unit, or exposure to the internal chemical (which can cause chemical burns).
4. Used SR-MPs must be kept separate from unused units and must be promptly disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local laws for disposal of hazardous materials. The Instruction Manual provides further information on proper handling of used units.
5. If mouthpieces are to be reused, they must be thoroughly cleaned in accordance with the Instruction Manual.

As a further precaution, CSE has begun manufacturing SR-MPs with a different chemical. CSE will exchange all unused SR-MPs already sold for the new design, at no cost to customers. [Contact your CSE Representative at 412-856-9200]

This User Notice does not affect the SR-100 Self-Contained Self-Rescuer (SCSR). Although the SR-MP is a training device for SR-100 users, the SR-100 is of a completely different design than the SR-MP. Instructions for use and handling of the SR-100 may be found in the SR-100 Instruction Manual.

Please refer any questions to CSE Corporation – Customer Service @ [412-856-9200]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. A. Shearer', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott A. Shearer
President and CEO