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Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

November 17, 1944

MEMO TO: Mr. Mills, Project Director

SUBJECT: First Meeting of the Safety Committee - Accident Caused by Oil Fumes

The first meeting of the Safety Committee, appointed by you in Project Memorandum No. 50, met at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 14. The Committee was called together to consider the possibility of hazard to health in connection with the use of stove oil being delivered at that time. Mr. Barrett, Property Control & Warehousing Officer, suggested a meeting because two evacuees working for him had apparently been overcome by fumes from the oil while working over the tank truck making deliveries. No reports of ill effects to persons in quarters or offices have been made.

The meeting of the Safety Committee was attended by Dr. Powell, Mr. Cassilly, Mr. Fien, Mr. Barrett and me as a committee, with Dr. O'Connell from the Hospital and Mr. Palmer and Mr. Andresen from the Procurement Unit.

At the meeting we considered refusing deliveries of the oil but decided against it since we had no proof that the oil did not meet specifications, and the Center needs oil and cannot afford a stoppage of deliveries. It was suggested that tests of the oil should be made to determine whether or not it meets the specifications. This, of course, should be done, but we have no means on the Center for making the tests. Dr. O'Connell stated that the Hospital could not make a test to determine whether or not there were dangerous fumes in the oil. The Safety Committee requested Mr. Andresen of the Procurement Unit to telephone the vendor and advise him that the oil was not satisfactory and possibly was dangerous and a change in quality should be made. If the vendor does not remedy the situation immediately, it was suggested that arrangements be made for the Bureau of Standards to make tests. The Safety Committee suggested that samples of the oil be taken and retained for testing if we decide to do so.

The Safety Committee also recommended the use of gas masks by the workmen standing over the fumes, until the type of oil is changed. Mr. Bowman, Utility Plant Superintendent, has one or two such masks, which his workmen use in the interior of the sewage digestion tanks.

Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Barrett to Mr. Lipian, written after the meeting of the Safety Committee and including a report of Mr. Andresen's telephone conversation with the supplier.

The Safety Committee will meet regularly on the first and third Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

R. H. Rupkey
Assistant Project Director

cc: Dr. Powell ✓ Mr. Fien
 Mr. Horn ✓ Mr. Leberthon
 Mr. Cassilly Mr. Barrett

RHR:sk

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Safety Committee

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COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Arizona

November 14, 1944

MEMO TO: Mr. M. Lipian
Assistant Project Director

SUBJECT: Casualty to Evacuee Working on Oil Crew

Reference is made to our conversation of this date concerning the accident to an evacuee on the oil truck.

For a matter of record, I believe it well to give you roughly a picture of the entire problem. Apparently, since the change of the contract of the fuel oil purchased for the project, there has been at least by odor a change in the oil.

Last Saturday I was told by the foreman of the oil crew that one of his helpers in delivering oil had just about become unconscious from the fumes when he managed to stop him from falling into the tanker. When I questioned the foreman about this, he at that time did not feel that it was the direct cause of the fume, but rather a combination of a sick stomach and the fume. However, this morning in unloading one of the tankers, he had a new man on the job who did pass out and fell from the tanker onto the ground injuring his head and breaking his glasses, which apparently was due to the fume from the oil. Further questioning of the foreman brings out the point that after the boy that was injured could talk to him, stated that before passing out he had a very good dreamy feeling.

Immediately after this accident happened, we had a meeting of the Safety Committee headed by Mr. Rupkey, Chairman, Dr. Powell, and Mr. Fien. In addition, also, Mr. Andresen, and Mr. Palmer of the Procurement Unit. The outcome of the meeting was as follows:

That we should not attempt to deliver any more oil until we could equip the oil crew with a gas mask.

Immediately after the meeting I called Mr. Schultz, and he is at this writing attempting to find out if we have a gas mask that will take care of this particular situation. In the meantime oil deliveries on this particular oil are suspended. In addition to this, it was agreed that Mr. Andresen should call the vendor and tell him of the difficulties we were facing.

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At this writing Mr. Andresen has just informed me that the vendor agrees that the No. 2 oil which we have been receiving has been new oil and has not had the opportunity to be placed in a run-down tank, which apparently takes off this odor in one week's time, or in other words, after a week the oil that we have here will settle sufficiently to clear away this odor. However, inasmuch as we deliver directly from the vendor's tanker into our tanks and are not storing this oil, we still will continue to have trouble. However, the vendor has stated that the next three, four, or five, loads of oil that come in will be No. 3 oil and by that time he will have sufficient No. 2 oil in a run-down tank to be delivered to this project which should be free of this odor.

For your information, on both instances, of the accidents related, Mr. Walker and Mr. Burns, drivers for the vendor were witnesses.

It is now hoped that this condition will straighten itself out within the next week or ten days.

Wm. A. Barrett
Property Control &
Warehousing Officer

WAP:kt

cc: R. H. Rupkey
D. R. Bowman
K. L. Erlburt

Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

November 18, 1944

MEMO TO: Mr. Duncan Mills, Project Director
SUBJECT: Meeting of Safety Committee

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The newly appointed Safety Committee met in Mr. Rupkey's office on Saturday, November 18, 1944, at 2:00 P.M. Those present included;

R. H. Rupkey Philip J. Cassilly
J. L. Horn W. A. Barrett
James LeBerthon

Absent; J. M. Fien
 John W. Powell

Mr. Rupkey opened the meeting by reading from the INFORMATION DIGEST, published in Washington, an article by Morris Seltzer entitled "Safety Councils to Curb Accidents".

It was decided that the first duty of the committee would be to find out what was now being accomplished along safety lines at this project.

Mr. LeBerthon reported that a very successful school safety control was operating in Camp III. He indicated that the Internal Security Department hoped to organize similar safety controls in the schools in Camps I and II. This could be enlarged as the committee saw fit. He also reported that Internal Security had already appointed one of their men to watch traffic for reckless driving, etc. Mr. LeBerthon said that since his arrival on the project, there had been only one traffic accident here.

Mr. Barrett suggested that it might be a good idea to set up a committee of perhaps two or three people within each block to watch traffic, look for fire hazards, inspect the grounds, etc.

Mr. Cassilly reported that industrial concerns had successful programs in operation in which one or two people were appointed in each department to act as a safety committee. These appointments were of a short duration so that the work would not lag, and the personnel would always be fresh. He stated, however, that there was always a full-time man in charge of the general program, who would follow up each recommendation of the committee, and Mr. Cassilly recommended that some one man be appointed to make it his full-time job to head up a safety program here.

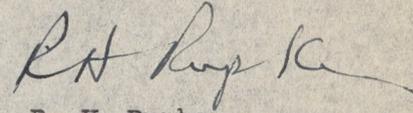
Mr. Horn reported that he had already started a program of requiring each driver of a motor vehicle to produce his driver's license before he could take a car out of the pool.

Mr. Rupkey thought it might be a good idea if each section could appoint a man to act as safety man in that particular section, and thus carry out the ideas of the Safety Committee.

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It was decided that in view of Mr. Fien's absence, and since the committee knew that the Fire Department had some safety program underway, it would be advisable to wait until a full report could be made of the present safety program before new recommendations should be made. It was also suggested that the Washington Office might have recommendations as to formation, organization and functions of a Safety Committee.


R. H. Rupkey
Chairman
Safety Committee

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Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

January 24, 1945

MEMO TO: Mr. Mills

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Safety Committee - January 20

A meeting of the Safety Committee was held in Dr. Powell's office on Saturday, January 20, at 1:30 p.m. Those present included:

Frank Hon	Dr. Powell
P. J. Cassilly	R. H. Rupkey
J. L. Horn	H. E. Yoshimine (Unit III Administrator)
James LeBerthon	Kenji Uyeno (Unit II Administrator)

Absent:

W. A. Barrett	T. Sumida (Unit I Administrator)
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The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, and the draft of the inter-camp bus regulations were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Rupkey reported that he had been informed by Mr. Parnell and Mr. Roy Anderson that the windows of the school buildings in Camp III had all been checked and the catches adjusted properly, and Mr. Light has certified on the Job and Production Order that repairs were satisfactory.

Mr. Hon gave a summary of the training program for volunteer firemen carried on at the Manzanar Center.

It was suggested that the street lighting of Block 34 should be improved, if possible without much additional installation of lighting facilities, since there is some hazard of stumbling over objects or unfilled excavations. Mr. Parnell, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Schultz will be advised of this suggestion.

It was suggested that steps be taken by the maintenance and construction crews in refilling trenches as soon as possible after completion of work. Mr. Parnell, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Anderson will be advised of this suggestion.

The possibility of fire in connection with crating of evacuee belongings was discussed, and the Safety Committee suggests that Mr. Hon be invited to the next meeting of the crating committee to discuss the fire hazards which might be expected under any crating program contemplated. Mr. Hon will not necessarily be a member of the committee but could give suggestions regarding fire hazards, particularly regarding paper, other wrappings and clothing. There is a possibility of smoldering fire brought to the warehouse in boxes brought in from evacuee quarters, and there are other fire hazards that should be considered.

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Letters from stove manufacturers concerning furnishing of instructions for space heaters were read to the committee. It was suggested that Block Managers Supervisors be requested for a list of the types of stoves in the blocks so that instructions might be distributed properly.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

R. H. Rupkey
Chairman
Safety Committee

cc: Messrs. Hon
Barrett
Cassilly
Horn
LeBerthon
Powell ✓
Yoshimine
T. Sumida
K. Uyeno

RHR:sk

Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Dr. Powell
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February 8, 1945

MEMO TO: Mr. Mills

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Safety Committee - February 3

A meeting of the Safety Committee was held in Mr. Rupkey's office on Saturday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. Those present included:

Dr. Powell	Frank E. Hon
P. J. Cassilly	Tsuneo Sumida
James LeBerthon	Kenji Uyeno
W. A. Ellis	H. E. Yoshimine

Absent:

W. A. Barret	J. L. Horn
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The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Cassilly called attention to the fact that busses were still carrying standing passengers, and in some cases no gates were used. It was also mentioned that the busses were exceeding the twenty-five miles per hour speed limit, and it was recommended that either governors should be set down to that speed or the Internal Security Section place a traffic officer on the highway to apprehend the drivers who speed.

There was some discussion as to the twenty-five miles per hour speed limit on the highway and the difficulty in making all vehicles stay within that speed limit. The Committee made no recommendation to raise the speed limit to thirty-five miles per hour on the highway, but since governors are supposed to be set at thirty-five miles per hour, possibly the speed limit should be raised to thirty-five miles per hour in order to be consistent.

The question of protection of evacuee property at the crating center was discussed. The Committee approved a recommendation by Mr. Sumida that a watchman be placed on duty at all times, except when workmen are on duty at the crating center and evacuee warehouses. Mr. LeBerthon agreed to place a watchman on such off duty hours. The watchman should have access to the telephone in the building as well as access to the interior of the buildings, in order to be able to notice fires which might start during off work hours.

Mr. Hon stated that many fires occur around two or three o'clock in the morning. Such fires have been usually started by cigarettes carelessly thrown aside three or four hours earlier in the night. It usually takes a few hours for such fires to get started. Mr. Hon suggested that all smoking around the

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crating center and warehouses be confined to an approved place where proper precaution can be taken to avoid starting a fire.

The matter of outside fires around evacuee blocks was discussed, and in view of the winds which may be expected at this season of the year, it was felt that particular attention should be paid to this feature of fire protection. The Committee recommended that the Project Director authorize Mr. Hon, Fire Protection Officer, to meet with the Block Managers at a regular meeting in each camp in the near future to discuss fire protection matters, particularly concerning outside fires.

The frequency of the Safety Committee meetings was discussed for a short time, and it was agreed that a meeting once a month would probably be sufficient in the future, since all of the urgent matters have been considered twice each month since November 10 when the project Safety Committee was established. Unless you disagree, regular meetings of the Safety Committee will be held only on the first Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the future.

R. H. Rupkey
Chairman
Safety Committee

cc: Messrs: Powell ✓
Cassilly
LeBerthon
Hon
Sumida
Uyeno
Yoshimine
Barrett
Horn

Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

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March 5, 1945

MEMO TO: Mr. Mills

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Safety Committee - March 3

A meeting of the Safety Committee was held in Mr. Rupkey's office on Saturday, March 3, at 1:30 p.m. Those present included:

Mr. James LeBerthon	Mr. T. Sumida
Mr. Frank E. Hon	Mr. K. Uyeno
Mr. J. L. Horn	Mr. H. K. Yoshimine

Absent:

Dr. Powell	Mr. Cassilly
Mr. Barrett	

Mr. Sumida called attention to the fire hazard involved in using fuel oil of a grade not suitable for hot water boilers and space heaters used on this project. Mr. Sumida stated that there is a possibility of some of the oil recently received having too high an ignition point which would prevent the oil from catching fire from the automatic lighter and resulting in an accumulation of oil which would give off an excessive amount of heat when finally ignited. The Safety Committee recommended that care be taken by those responsible for receiving the oil to ascertain that oil of the proper grade is being received.

Since the Safety Committee had no other pressing business to attend to and several of the members had other pressing business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

cc: Messrs. Powell ✓
Cassilly
LeBerthon
Hon
Horn
Barrett
Sumida
Uyeno
Yoshimine

R. H. Rupkey
Chairman
Safety Committee

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