

accidents

INTERNATIONAL
HARVESTER

A N D T H E I R

SAFETY SECTION • EDUCATION AND PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

prevention

Accident Report Circular No. 23
August 15, 1952

TO ALL HARVESTER SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL:

It is with sincere regret that we are reporting another fatality, which makes four so far this year, also some serious accidents which have occurred within the past few weeks. We hope that all of these accidents and their prevention will be given wide publicity and that everything possible will be done to prevent similar occurrences. Your united efforts are solicited to stem this apparent rise in serious accidents.

FATAL CASE

McCORMICK WORKS

Fractured spine, several fractured ribs, and internal injuries and hemorrhage, causing death - A 61-year-old laborer on the second shift, with 9 years of Company service and experience on the No. 2 foundry unit, was fatally injured about 10:35 p.m. on August 4. His job was to place metal jackets on the finished molds on the conveyor and then, after the molds had been poured, to remove the jackets on the opposite side of the conveyor before the shake-out operation was performed.

About 10 p.m. this employe asked for a relief man so he could take a brief rest period, as was the custom, and when he returned the relief man relieved the next operator stationed about 8 feet to the north, whose job is to place and then later remove the weights from the molds. Shortly thereafter the supervisor, noticing that a number of molds were clogging up the tunnel entrance on the east side of the conveyor, had the power shut off and called for a millwright to check the reason for the conveyor not operating properly. After removing about three molds, the millwright discovered the feet of an individual who was lying head first and face downward on one side of the conveyor under the exhaust cover of the unit. After taking away about 6 feet of this cover they were able to remove the body.

The wooden mallet and hand pads which this employe used normally were found on an empty car just ahead of where his body was found. It could be assumed (as there were no witnesses to the accident) that he reached for these articles and fell onto the conveyor; however none of the 20-odd men working in the vicinity heard him cry out, and therefore it is possible that he either fainted or suffered some other physical disability, fell onto the conveyor, and was unable to call out to his fellow employes.

The conveyor, which moves about 12 feet per minute, is completely covered, except for the work areas, and there are no gears or moving parts which could have caught the employe. The flat surface of the conveyor consists of metal plates 30 inches long, on which the molds are placed, and there is no space between these plates except when the conveyor is rounding the bends of the unit where it is completely guarded. (See sketch on next page.)