

## Subcommittee Works To Prevent Catastrophe

*(This is another in a series of articles on the Central Safety and Health Committee and its seven subcommittees.)*

The work of the Process Review and Acceptance Subcommittee is another level of safety effort, above and in support of the daily and weekly inspections. It provides an increased degree of technical, in-depth safety analysis, according to Jerry Violette, chairman.

The subcommittee's purpose is to determine the probability of a catastrophic event which could cause significant damage to property, harm to a large number of people, or both.

This is achieved through two techniques, fault tree analysis and periodic reviews of area processes and discussion with area personnel.

Fault tree analysis, or failure mode analysis, defines the most catastrophic event that can happen, such as a fire or explosion. Then a logic diagram is developed to identify what events must happen for that catastrophe to occur.

Each step in the process is studied and rated to determine its relative safety. For example, at what frequency in years would you expect this major catastrophe to occur? The guideline is 10,000 years, which means that if the frequency is more than once in 10,000 years, the system must be altered to provide more safety. It also poses such questions as, How many

people might be injured, and how serious might their injuries be? How much property would be damaged or destroyed?

Over the years, significant changes are made in plant processes. Each change is reviewed in detail by many people to insure that it is safe. The Process Review and Acceptance Subcommittee, in addition, looks at these changes for their cumulative impact to insure that the combination of the many changes does not create a potentially dangerous situation.

The subcommittee also reviews the B-200 acceptance reports of new or modified equipment and processes; audits plant procedures for handling and controlling use of solvents and other hazardous chemicals; and inspects significant new and modified equipment.

Although its activities are not as visible as some others, the Process Review and Acceptance Subcommittee is undoubtedly one of the more time-consuming functions of the Central Safety and Health Committee because of the broad area of responsibility and the serious nature of the effort. Some 57 persons, each spending from four to 10 hours per month, are involved in this effort.

In addition to Jerry Violette, other members include W. G. Lowe, Vice Chairman; G. E. Johnson, Fault Tree Analyst; J. A. Sheppard, Process and

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*The wonder of Christmas is reflected in the innocent, trusting face of a child, making clear the simplicity of the Christmas message: "For God so loved . . . that He gave his son." Edward, age 3½, left, and John Work, 1, have hung their stockings and are counting the days. Their parents are Ray Work, Research Supervisor, R & D, and his wife, Karen, who live at 3110 Hickory Hill Road, Hendersonville.*

Christmas is one of the most festive times of the year, but it is also one of the most hazardous. An injury to a family member or a fire can turn the holiday into the unhappiest time of the year.

Think safety as you decorate.

One of the biggest hazards is the Christmas tree itself. Some precautions should be taken in selecting and trimming the tree.

Select the tree with care, making sure that it is not dry. Branches should bend without breaking and needles should not fall when branches are shaken. Plan the decorating so that the tree will be indoors as short a time as possible.

Cut at least one inch off the trunk, and keep the tree stand filled with water.

Place the tree away from radiators, heaters, television sets and especially the fireplace.

Don't block doors or exits with the tree or other decorations.

Ornaments and decorations should be nonflammable. Lighted wax candles should never be used on or near the tree.

Wiring for tree lights should be checked for defects and loose sockets. Circuits should never be overloaded. Tree lights should be turned off before going to bed and when no one is in the house. Do not leave children or pets alone in a room with tree lights on.

Electric trains and other electrical toys should not be placed under a tree. Tinsel can fall on the train's track, causing a short circuit, which can cause fire.

A tree should be taken down as soon as it begins to shed needles or show signs of dryness.

If you smoke, be careful with cigarettes and matches. Provide large ashtrays that will not tip over easily.

If you burn candles, use holders that will catch dripping wax. Place them away from flammable materials such as draperies.

If you use your fireplace, don't burn trash or wrappings for they can become flying paper embers that settle on the roof. Some plastics and plastic foam can produce dangerous gases.

Keep rugs, pillows, newspapers, holiday wrappings and other flammable materials away from the fireplace area, out of range of sparks.

Toys can be dangerous to infants and small children. Select them carefully to prevent injuries.

Among toys that may be hazardous are the following:

-Stuffed animals or dolls with removable pin type eyes or parts that could cause cuts or punctures;

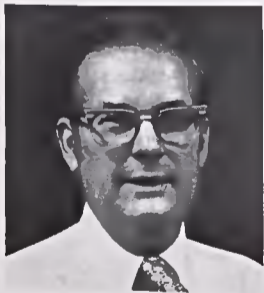
-toys with small parts that may be swallowed by toddlers, and toys with sharp edges;

-infant rattles with rigid wires, easily shattered plastic shells or loose small objects;

-darts and other pointed objects;

-explosive caps for toy guns that have an excessive noise level.

Have a safe and merry Christmas.



### Focus:

The news media keeps us well informed on human tragedies, gloomy economic forecasts, and leadership failures. I delight in the Christmas season because it allows us to

briefly focus on the brighter side of life. Christmas is a special occasion because it turns our attention to the birth of Christ through worship, music, and expressions of love to family and friends.

I sincerely hope this Christmas will be a happy one and the new year holds good fortune in store for both you and your family.

*John H. Golden*

John H. Golden  
Plant Manager