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17 February 1948

Safety Committee

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Comdr. Bradbury, Sgt. Gilbert, and W. G. Marley.

DEC 21 1952

Classification Group

Safety Inspection at V Site

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*Mark M. Jones*  
5-4-98

1. We have inspected V Site from a point of view of H.E. handling and also general fire hazard. We are of the opinion that the room which is used to assemble H.E. charges is adequately and safely protected against dropping charges during manual handling and against electrical or other hazards. We would like to point out, however, that the greatest hazard in any of the operations in this room are those operations which involve the lifting and lowering of the tamper sphere or of the completely assembled gadget. While the existing equipment appears to be adequate, we merely wish to take this opportunity to suggest that V Site personnel give much attention to providing a large factor of safety in all their handling operations.

2. We note several conditions which appear to us to constitute rather considerable fire hazards. Most of the coal stoves which have been installed at the Site have been installed with inadequate air space behind the transit sheathing and, in some cases, there is entirely inadequate transit, leaving bare wood within 2' of a stovepipe. We also noticed considerable departure from accepted practice in the vicinity of such stoves in that in one building particularly (the inert assembly building) planks were stored in close proximity to a coal stove, that ashes from this stove had been dumped into a wooden box alongside the stove, and similar carelessness in the handling of such equipment. One stove in particular is located in a narrow hall immediately adjacent to the H.E. assembly room. While presumably not in use, its immediate removal to preclude any possible use is recommended. It was also noticed in the inert assembly building that apparently torch cutting or welding operations had been conducted using only a wood box to support the metal. Such supports should obviously be made in the form of metal frames and it is actually questionable whether or not such work should not be conducted out-doors.

3. It appears to us that there exists in the enclosed yard altogether too much in the way of miscellaneous packing boxes, remains of packing boxes and general trash. Such accumulations of inflammable material obviously serve as potential fire hazards. From the point of view of personnel safety, it was also noted that the stacking of such boxes in many cases has been carried out extremely carelessly.

4. We feel that the small room shack, using the gasoline heater is adequate but should be provided with built-in vents, and should have outside and inside the shack and easily accessible a proper fire extinguisher.

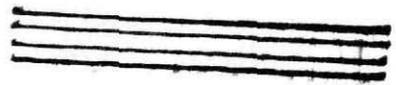
5. While "No Smoking" signs exist in and on the outside of the H.E. assembly building, nevertheless we observed a man smoking inside this room. While it is true that H.E. was not in the room at the time, this nevertheless indicates the ease with which such signs may be disregarded. It is strongly suggested that one room or area be set aside in which smoking may be permitted at any time, and that smoking be prohibited at all times everywhere else.

6. The process of unloading the H.E. blocks in wooden containers was observed and certain difficulties noticed. In the first place,

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handles on the boxes are too short to permit satisfactory handling. In fact, screw drivers had to be inserted between these handles and the top of the box in order to permit a grip on the box to be obtained. A more definite method of handling these boxes, so as to preclude all possibility of dropping in handling, should be adopted.

7. Since several small portable gasoline driven engines are in use, it is strongly recommended that a standard safety can for holding gasoline and for filling be provided, and that this can be stored outside the hazardous area.

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