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My Exposure to TCE While Stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 1969-70

While I was stationed at Andersen AFB, Guam in 1969 & 1970 my job (54650) required me to perform maintenance and repairs, daily, on fuel storage and delivery systems including tank farms, cross island pipe line, pump houses, hydrant pits, and filtering systems. When we were caught up on our more important work we always had painting that needed performed.

We would meet at the shop first thing to get our assignments and to load up whatever parts and equipment we needed to do those jobs. We always filled up two or three gallon jugs of TCE and loaded them up along with some rags. We had two 55 gal. drums of TCE on our shop bench stock. We had them on a gravity stand behind our shop. We would use the TCE to clean up all the greasy finger prints after we finished a job. When we were doing painting we used the TCE to clean the paint brushes and our hands. It worked really well. It wasn't flammable and it dried fast. No body ever told us that TCE was so dangerous.

We would clean up with TCE in the morning for break time and then at lunch and again for afternoon break and then at quitting time. We were also exposed to TCE/PCE in our drinking water and bathing. The B-52s and the tarmac were washed down with TCE



Here is a picture of me painting at the booster station. Sgt. Foster took the picture with my camera. He was there operating the station. As you can see, I am not wearing any gloves. The TCE worked so well getting the paint off your hands, we never thought of using gloves.

after each bombing mission. The other large source of TCE/PCE found in the well water was the commercial laundry at Marbo where more wells were located. (There are 9 EPA Sites at Marbo)

Andersen AFB is located on top of Guam's primary source of drinking water, known as the Northern Lens Aquifer and is the primary source of drinking water for about three-fourths of the island's population. No testing for TCE/PCE was done before 1978.



This is our Off-Base truck and part of the crew going out to a job. The tool box on the left is mine. I can tell because the last four of my Soc/ Sec number is painted on it (8533). We kept the rags and TCE jugs in the bigger box on the right.



Circa 1970

Barrels of TCE in Drum Lot (EPA Site No. 27)

I swear that everything on this page is accurate and factual to the best of my ability.

Ralph A. Stanton 7-9-13

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My Commission Expires
February 1, 2016
Andrew County
Commission #12549366