

It has taken me a long time to tell this story publicly.

but here goes...

"We've just always done it that way."

WHATEVER

"My Chemical Romance"

Back in July 2015 I was working for a company called **NASCO** in Washington, IN that makes industrial safety wear.

I had worked there since 2012 mostly overseeing and operating their silkscreen room. At the time it was the best paying job I had ever had, and my wife and I had just had our first child the year before.

At NASCO we used a lot of harsh smelling chemicals to clean our screens, but I had been told that they were "safe."

"Not at all safe."

Very long story short. **THE CHEMICALS WERE NOT AT ALL SAFE.** One of the chemicals in particular was called "**NASCO 50/50.**" And one was called "**Tydyol.**" (aka Toluene) I didn't do the purchasing, and when the chemicals arrived, they were delivered by a maintenance guy.

Usually, he would deliver the chemicals and take the paperwork that came with them down to the company buyer to file, so I never saw the paperwork until one day when he was out, I had a particularity large order to process, and someone said my chemicals had been delivered, so I brought them up myself and saw the paperwork for the first time.

Right on the front page it said that the chemicals were highly dangerous and in fact that the "**50 NASCO 50/50.**" **WAS BENZENE.**

X Google that word, "**Benzene.**" (It causes cancer among other problems). X

Many times while I was working at **NASCO**, the heating/air-conditioning unit (the only source of fresh air) would break down and the maintenance guy would make excuses about fixing it, and "it's cool/warm enough in here, you should have seen it like it used to be!"

Also, I had a lot of difficulty with the company keeping **PPE**, especially gloves (like latex, not even the right kind of gloves for handling chemicals), in stock. (Ironically, being that **NASCO** makes protective outerwear, including lines to protect from chemical exposure)

If you know me you can imagine how the conversations with management went. I was furious. Not only because of my own exposure, which had been downplayed for years, but because of all the other workers who had spent time in that room.

Another problem that I pointed out was that our wash sink, where all the chemical got washed out, drained into a drainage that was open outside and runs into a drainage ditch THROUGH **JAMESTOWN SQUARE APARTMENTS** near **NASCO**. You know, where kids play.

Date 3.21.14
Case #
Pulled Silkscreen List

XX
P
4503

Case 1:14-cv-0182

SS #
Quantity
Size

6/11/14

PULLED SILKSCREEN LIST

SO #

37807

ITEM ID

51236

SS #

02

SIZE

I spent about a month working with purchasing to find safe alternatives, and having meetings with all the officers of NASCO including the CEO and CFO. The CEO acknowledged that "they had failed me."

When I asked him why they were still using the chemical when there were safer and CHEAPER options available his exact words were "We've just always done it that way." I told him that "I had heard those same words over and over since I arrived at NASCO, and that they should print that as their company motto."

When I said that they would have it on their heads if I got cancer the CFO said, "we'll... Joe, you smoke." XX

That was it for me.

I screamed something to the tune of "How dare you, that's my choice, and even if it's a bad one that's on my head! YOU, HAVE BEEN PUTTING PEOPLE WITH NO CLUE WHAT THEY ARE HANDLING IN A LITTLE ROOM FULL OF DEADLY CHEMICALS FOR DECADES BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN TOO LAZY TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING ELSE!"

I told the officers of NASCO that I no longer trusted them, or the company, and I never should have.

I went in the next morning with my resignation, got my things, and left with 0 notice.

I notified OSHA and the EPA in writing as to every detail of how the chemicals had been mishandled, including my own misuse.

I met with lawyers, the breakdown of it is that there is a two year statute of limitations in Indiana for harm caused by chemical exposures. (Benzene has been shown to cause cancer and damage organs over 20+ years after moderate exposures, and I handled it in large quantities 5 days a week for 3.5 years).

Thankfully, I am not sick as of now.

I get yearly blood tests since then.

Oh, and I eventually stopped smoking.

Ask questions at work.

Be a problem.

-Joe Dillon Former Silkscreen Team Lead NASCO Industries, Inc.

Studio Whatever, forever. EPA Community Hotline: 800-962-6215

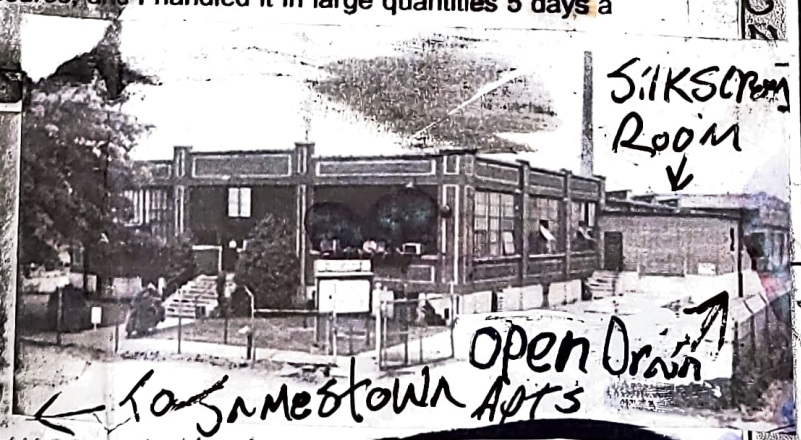
OSHA 1-800-321-6742

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Or, (800) 767-4288



There's no better feeling than after you've held your partner and your child. Take a shower, wash clothes.