

The essential elements of the program are:

*Problem identification.*—Problem areas are identified through various techniques such as morbidity and mortality studies, literature reports, occupational disease reports, problems referred by management and labor, conferences with international sources, and information supplied by State and local governments, universities and professional organizations. Such information is quantified and the necessary action is identified.

*Field studies.*—Some problems require field epidemiologic studies which involve medical evaluations of the workers at their worksite together with environmental evaluation of the workplace. This technique has been very effective in identifying the etiology of occupational diseases and the necessary medical and engineering procedures for their control.

*Research.*—Many health problems require a research effort. Therefore, most of the research is problem oriented and related to the toxicity of industrial chemicals, mechanisms of biologic action, diagnostic procedures, development of analytical procedures, engineering controls, and instrumentation.

*Technical assistance.*—Professional assistance is provided State and local governments and through these agencies to industry and labor for the solution of health problems, which for the most part requires the application of existing knowledge.

*Standard setting.*—Although the program has no legal responsibility for standard setting, the information gathered in its field investigations and research effort is supplied to official and nonofficial agencies which have a standard-setting role. The widely used threshold limit values have been an outgrowth of this activity.

*Training.*—The program operates a continuous training program for employees of State, local, and Federal Governments. Training relates to the basic principles of occupational health as well as specialized courses in new problem areas and refresher courses as new information becomes available. Although priority is given to government, a limited number of trainees are accepted from private industry and labor.

*Administrative assistance.*—Aid is provided to State and local governments in establishing and operating occupational health programs, the administration of programs, and the development of new program areas.

*Information center.*—To meet a very large demand for technical information on the part of the general public, technical and professional organizations, industry and labor, the program operates a technical information center. Information can be provided quickly on a broad spectrum of subjects including the health effects of almost any industrial chemical and process.

*Preventive medical services.*—The provision of occupational health services is best done at the worksite through medical and environmental surveillance. To promote the expansion of occupational health services in industry, the program offers a consultation service, makes studies of the most efficient methods of providing services, and maintains a current roster of industry and labor programs.

*Implementing findings.*—To implement its findings and recommendations the program publishes its scientific works, holds workshops and seminars, develops worker information, and disseminates infor-