

HAZARD



WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
BOARD
OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA

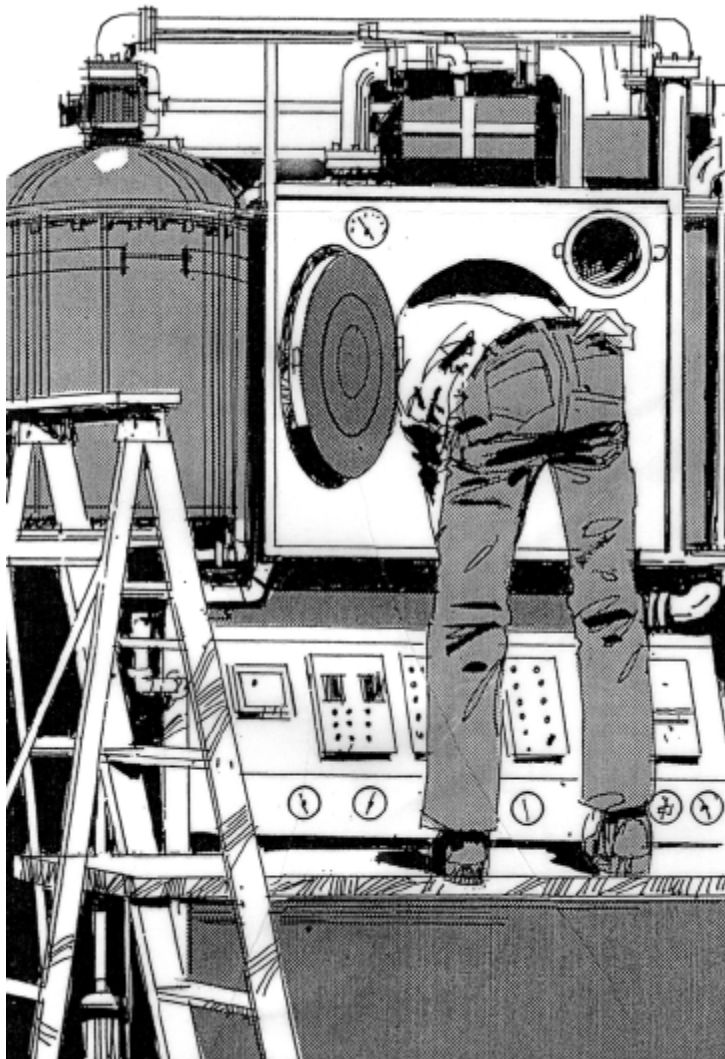
ALERT

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POSTER # 1090

Dry cleaning establishments **BEWARE OF SOLVENT VAPOURS!**



If you work in and around commercial dry cleaning machines, you must be aware of the potential hazards involved. The interior of a dry cleaning machine is a "confined space," which can cause you harm even if you put only your head and shoulders inside.

When you are cleaning or repairing the inside of a dry cleaning machine you should be aware that the solvent tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene) can affect the central nervous system, causing headache, dizziness, unconsciousness and possibly death by respirator failure. In a confined space, the solvent vapours can displace the air you breathe, causing lack of oxygen and suffocation.

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation details the requirements for workers entering confined spaces. Before entering a confined space, make sure you have been trained in the hazards of the confined space and the required safe work procedures.