

12—Maintaining Interest in Safety



FIG 12-7 —An on-site group meeting of persons involved in a construction project. A flip chart (left) is used to illustrate solutions to the problems at hand.

review by the managers

Small group meetings with men doing similar kinds of work can be held at or near the work place (See Fig 12-7). The supervisor or foreman may discuss the causes of an accident of which the men have personal knowledge or in which they have personal interest. The men should be encouraged to join in the discussion, and a conclusion should be reached as to show the accident might have been prevented.

The supervisor may present a problem that has developed because of new work or new equipment. Again the men should participate and offer their views.

At times the supervisor may present a film or chart talk on a subject related to the work of the group members. Other visual aids such as models or exhibits may be used. Safety devices or pieces of equipment or material may be shown and discussed.

"Production huddles" are instruction sessions about a specific job being done that includes safety. Such meetings are particularly useful with maintenance crews when an unusual job is about to start. The plans for doing the job safely and efficiently are gone

over and a procedure is agreed upon. Public utility line crews use this type of meeting and call it a tail board conference. Before starting a job, the crew gathers around the truck and discusses the job, laying out the tools and materials they will need and agreeing upon the part each man is to do.

A particular advantage of small group meetings is that they provide excellent opportunities for presenting all types of information, including safety information, directly to employees and stimulate exchange of ideas that can benefit the accident prevention program. To be successful, the same safety meeting must include a tangible message, originality of presentation, opportunity for audience participation, and a conclusion that spurs action toward an attainable goal.

Planning programs

Making the safety meeting interesting is of the utmost importance. There should be no complaining or scolding. Talks should be definitely limited in time and they should start and end on time. The subject matter of a talk should be considered in advance to make sure that it is pertinent and does not repeat other talks recently presented.