

Industrial Safety



FIG 1-3 — The employee safety meeting was pioneered about the same time the National Safety Council was organized. This safety rally at the Falk Company, Milwaukee, was made more effective by use of flip chart (right) as visual aid.

product lines and producing at unimagined rates. While the factories were far superior in terms of production to the preceeding small handicraft shops, they were often inferior in terms of human values, health, and safety.

These deficiencies were probably inevitable. The tools of mass production had to be invented and applied before anyone could begin to imagine the problems they would create, and the problems had to be known before corrective measures could be considered, tested, and proved.

While this change in work environment was taking place, the thinking of the public in general, management, and the law was still reflecting the past, when the worker was an independent craftsman or a member of the family owned shop.

In large industrial centers, the ugly results of industrial accidents and poor industrial health conditions became more and more obvious. Voices of protest were raised. Though there were employers who denied the existence of the problem, wiser management men began to try to meet specific aspects of it.

As early as 1867, Massachusetts had begun to use factory inspectors, and ten years later that state had a law requiring the guarding of dangerous machinery.

From 1898 on, there were various efforts to make the employer financially liable for accidents. In 1911, the first effective workmen's compensation act was passed in Wisconsin (some authorities give this credit to New Jersey)—to be followed by a rush of similar laws in many other states.