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# Council Purposes and Program

The National Safety Council is a non-profit, cooperative association whose objective is the elimination of accidents. To achieve this objective the Council advocates the following program of safety activities:

1. **Creating Interest in Safety.** People will try to prevent accidents only when they are convinced of three things: (a) that accidents are really a serious problem, threatening personal happiness, industrial efficiency and economic security; (b) that accidents don't "just happen," but that each one has definite, ascertainable causes; (c) that accidents can be prevented. The basic requirement in a national safety program, therefore, is a dramatic and effective presentation of these facts to more and more people.

2. **Finding Accident Causes.** Accident causes are not the same in any two plants, in any two cities, in any two schools. They are not the same from one time to another. Every industrial plant, every city, every school and every other public or private organization, therefore, must study the causes of accidents in its own group, so that prevention efforts always will be directed at the things really responsible for accidents.

3. **Maintaining Interest in Safety.** People retain interest in very few things of which they are not continuously reminded. Therefore, it is the task of the newspaper, the radio, the magazine, the school, the public speaker and every other educational influence to keep reminding the worker, the driver, the pedestrian, the housewife and the school child that freedom from accidents depends on personal caution, and that the safe way is the right way and the best way—from the standpoint not only of human satisfaction, but of social efficiency and economy.

4. **Engineering Improvement.** Many accidents occur because equipment is faulty. The punch press is unguarded, the automobile brakes are worn, the stairway is crudely built, the propeller is defective, the stop sign is obscured. The avoidance of accidents, therefore, requires that safety be built into every piece of machinery, every home, every school building, every highway. We must insist that the things we buy—whether a stepladder or a stop sign, a bandsaw or a blast furnace—be safe things. And we must be willing if necessary to pay a higher price because of this built-in safety factor, realizing that it is true economy to do so.

5. **Training for Safety.** Many accidents occur because the injured person or some other person acts in an unsafe manner. This unsafe act often is committed because the person involved never has been taught how to do the job in the safe way. Therefore, boys and girls, men and women, must be taught how to work, how to drive, how to cross the street, how to live safely. This teaching and training is a joint responsibility of industry, of schools and colleges, of governmental groups and of parents in the home.

6. **Supervision for Safety.** Many who know well the safe method of performing an act nevertheless are involved in accidents because, due to hurry, fatigue, thoughtlessness or some other reason, they do not perform the act in what they know is the safe way. Therefore, we need good foremen in industry, alert patrol boys in our schools, diligent police officers on our streets, thoughtful parents in our homes. These, through wise guidance of those under their supervision, can greatly minimize the chances of accident.

7. **Legislation for Safety.** Avoidance of accidents requires the adoption and scientific enforcement of sound legislation—legislation on traffic, on industrial matters, on public transportation, on home construction and maintenance, and on many items of per-