

How Can Interest in Accident Prevention Be Best Maintained?

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The speaker said in part: While each section and each industry has its own peculiar problems, the matter of sowing the seeds of safety in the various departments of a company and maintaining that interest not only with the executives and department heads but with superintendents and foremen, is very much the same.

Let me call your attention to the Safe Practices Pamphlets published by the National Safety Council. These pamphlets are a compilation of experience in accident prevention gathered from all types of industry and over a period of twenty years. They are not federal, state or insurance requirements or national codes, but they are common practices and experiences of all types of industries, and, if followed out, will do more to help the safety engineer, the superintendents and foremen, in their accident prevention work, than anything I know of. I also want to refer you particularly to pamphlet No. 67, entitled "Maintaining Interest in Safety," which is a complete discussion of my subject and covers it far more thoroughly than I can do here.

Most of our big industries have awakened to the fact that today they must have their presidents and vice-presidents understand that they cannot afford to operate without a safety program. But it is not enough to have them merely interested—they must issue a blanket order to all departments and all operations that safety is a part of the company's program and must be carried out by all employees in the company; and that it is just as important to prevent accidents as it is to produce the company's products.

It is important that the comptroller of a company be interested in safety from the financial standpoint, and he should be furnished with the reports showing the cost of accidents, cost of compensation, insurance, etc. These reports should also be given to the treasurer, and when you can show them reports of several years of experience where your insurance premium is coming down and your cost of compensation is lower, then they will not hesitate to approve any bills that may come in for safety work.

Naturally, your engineering department should be vitally interested in safety, and to maintain their interest it should be the duty of the safety engineer to furnish them with reports and charts showing accidents, days lost, man-hours, and days lost per 100,000 man-hours. Anything new in safe practices pamphlets, any new state codes affecting construction, fire prevention, good housekeeping or anything that comes under their jurisdiction, should be brought to their attention.

To maintain the interest of the higher executives, I wish it were possible to get the president or vice-president, general manager, superintendents and any other high officers to attend this Safety Congress each year. If they would spend three or four days at a gathering like this I am sure their eyes would be opened and they would get a picture of accident prevention activities and their importance that could be given to them in no other way.

Safety committee meetings sometimes become dry and uninteresting. Many safety committees are organized merely for the purpose of taking care of plant inspections relative to safeguards. We believe that a safety committee should be the one func-

tioning body or organization in a plant to handle any and all problems whether they relate to plant hazards, machinery, or construction; and we also believe that it is their duty to look after fire prevention and fire protection. Sanitation and health hygiene should also be a part of their work. Where you give your safety committees some real authority and some real definite work to do you can maintain their interest.

Safety contests properly run will maintain the interest of the organization. An outstanding example of this is the Portland Cement Association yearly contest for the trophy awarded by the Cement Association to those mills who go through the year without a lost-time accident. This contest has been running since 1923 and there is just as much interest and enthusiasm today in the cement industry as there was in the very beginning. If a safety contest is conducted for one month during the year, this will interest and inspire the men for a time, but we cannot expect a campaign of a month to give the men sufficient enthusiasm to carry through the balance of the year.

We find that the material furnished by the National Safety Council is needed to keep the interest of the men, the foremen and the superintendents. All of our plants receive copies of the *National Safety News* each month, also each plant has a complete set of the safe practices pamphlets, the foremen and members of the safety committees get a copy of *The Safe Worker* as issued each month, and every truck driver of the organization receives a monthly copy of *The Safe Driver*, and all the plants are supplied with the poster bulletin service of the National Safety Council. In addition to these, of course, various local poster bulletins are made up and used.

Another important item of service by the Council is the safety calendar, and I urge all organizations to make use of this in a large way. I make it my business to go into many of the homes of workers at our plants, to see how they are kept with regard to sanitation, fire prevention, etc. I cannot recall any one of these homes that did not have a copy of the safety calendar on its wall. During this depression we considered doing away with the safety calendar, but before we took that step we consulted with our safety committees in our various plants. Such a howl was set up by the safety committees that we felt we could not afford to stop the safety calendar. Any accident that happens in the family of an employee has an indirect effect on our company. We believe that the safety calendar keeps safety in the minds of the mother and children and if we can avoid one accident in the saving of one life in the family of any of our employees, we have saved many times the cost of a calendar.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

October 4, 1933

The session was opened by the reading of several brief reports presented by chairmen of standing committees. The chairman then called for the presentation of the Nominating Committee's Report, which was given by W. H. Comins, National Lead Company, St. Francois, Mo., and officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

General Chairman—P. M. Arthur, American Zinc Co. of Tenn., Mascot, Tenn.

Vice-Chairman in Charge of Membership Coal Mines—F. B. Dunbar, Pickards, Mather & Co., Mather, Pa.

Vice-Chairman in Charge of Membership Metal Mines—J. W. Alt, Calumet & Hecla Consolidated Copper Co., Calumet, Mich.