with accidents now, and to build soundly for the long-range attack upon accidents in the future.

The Safety Movement Today

The question "What has the safety movement accomplished?" demanded an answer in purely positive terms—accomplishments, advances, achievements The question "How does the safety movement stand today?" demands a look at what is wrong, as well as what is right, with the present situation The answer can be found in an appraisal of how the safety movement stands in relation to how it ought to stand The first point to be considered is simple and grim

Accidents still bleed this country of more than 100,000 lives a year, cause nearly 10,000,000 injuries, and account for a financial loss of more than $16,000,000,000

Work accidents destroy more than 14,000 lives a year, about half these deaths occurring in what is normally considered industry Work accidents injure 2,000,000 persons annually and cost more than $5,000,000,000

In 1963, more than twice as many workers were killed and nearly one and one-quarter times as many were injured off the job as on it

All injuries to workers, both on and off the job, caused a loss of about 90,000,000 man-days of work directly, and 195,000,000 man-days indirectly

Within the industrial community, there are very large variations in accident rates from industry to industry and from company to company

Trade, service, and manufacturing are, on the average, low-accident businesses Transportation, agriculture, construction, and the extractive industries are high-accident fields These low and high rankings hold for both deaths and injuries The communications industry has accidental death rates substantially below the national average, and the lowest injury rates

How much the variation from one industry to another reflects unavoidable differences in hazards and how much it reflects other factors has not been fully determined Certainly, the mining industry, for example, has had a maximum amount of regulation and assistance from government, yet its rate remains high

In construction and lumber operations, the high rates may be due in part to the fact that the typical operation is small, and size of operation seems to be related to injury frequency

Manufacturing, with more than a fourth of all workers, produced only about one-eighth of all fatal work accidents in 1963 What is perhaps more significant, manufacturing accident death rates per 100,000 workers declined over 55 per cent from 1933 to 1962, compared to a drop of about 40 per cent for all other work fields

Large and small plants

A 1960 study of manufacturing plants reporting to the National Safety Council showed that plants with more than 500 workers employed 86 per cent of the workers, but suffered only 69 per cent of the injury accidents Plants with fewer than 100 workers had 2 per cent of the employees and 4 per cent of the injuries Plants with from 100 to 500 employees had 12 per cent of the workers and 27 per cent of the injuries The smallest plants had frequency and severity rates almost triple those of the largest plants

The seriousness of the small-plant problem has been widely recognized for many years It has occupied a large place in the discussions of the President's Industrial Safety Conferences

The National Safety Council also has devoted much effort to meeting this problem Some promising steps have been taken to increase small-plant participation in the organized safety movement, principally through the establishment of liaison between the National Safety Council and the trade associations representing many small plants

Certain aspects of the small-plant problem can be stated with assurance

1 The small plant cannot employ specialized safety personnel to deal with the accident problem

2 The financial position of many small concerns makes it difficult to convince them that spending the money necessary for proper equipment, layout, guarding, and other elements is important

3 Small-plant management, harried by a host of problems in all fields, seldom will find time for proper study of accidents and their causes