

CHAPTER 1

THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MOVEMENT

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This chapter attempts to answer five questions *Why be concerned with industrial accident prevention? Who started the industrial safety movement? What has that movement accomplished? How does it stand today? Where is industrial safety going?*

Later chapters of the Manual are largely concerned with detailed accident prevention techniques. However, unless safety workers stop occasionally and ask, "Why," "Who," "What," "How," and "Where," they will lack the broad view of their work which is necessary to give it purpose and direction.

Safety involves, certainly, an immense variety of technical, organizational, and promotional problems, but a technology without a vision that can survey the past as well as look forward is half-blind and cannot be a fully effective technology.

Philosophy of Industrial Accident Prevention

In 1949, the Board of Directors of the National Safety Council declared in a formal statement of policy:

"The elimination of accidents is vital to the public interest. Accidents produce economic and social loss, impair individual and group productivity, cause inefficiency and retard the advancement of standards of living."

On the practical side, there is the simple and obvious fact that accidents cripple in-

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This chapter was revised by R. G. Belknap, based upon reviews by selected members of the National Safety Council.