

SAFETY COMMITTEES

Unsafe conditions and practices

The conditions responsible for most accidents are readily apparent and may be detected and corrected by application of common sense and knowledge of the operations and equipment involved. The majority of accidents arise from lack of guards, defective electrical equipment, and hazardous stairs and platforms. These circumstances are readily apparent and controllable through organized effort.

In addition to the physical hazards of the plant, the inspection committee should be on the watch for such unsafe practices as

- 1 Operation of machines at unsafe speeds
- 2 Removal or nullification of machine guards
- 3 Use of defective tools or equipment or makeshift tools, failure to secure needed tools
- 4 Overloading, overcrowding, bad storage or handling
- 5 Working under suspended loads, near open hatches, riding loads, creating plant traffic hazards
- 6 Repairing or adjusting equipment in motion, under pressure, electrically charged, or containing dangerous materials
- 7 Failure to use, or use of inadequate, badly adapted, or wrongly chosen, personal protective equipment or safety devices
- 8 Poor housekeeping and failure to remedy unsanitary or unhealthful conditions
- 9 Horseplay

Paper work for the inspection committee should be cut to a minimum. Check lists are useful for helping the inspection committee to cover details, but since check lists cannot be all-inclusive, they should not be relied upon entirely in general inspections.

The inspection committee can also develop report forms to simplify the problem of summarizing findings at the end of a tour. When these findings have been thoroughly discussed with the safety director, recommendations can then be made with the understanding that the safety director or his assistants will follow through to a decision (Fig 3-8).

No attempt is made here to specify the frequency of inspections, the equipment needed for certain kinds, or the exact form

and manner for securing the best results. Such problems are properly the business of the individual plant and of the committee members themselves. An inspection committee which develops a program immediately applicable to its own plant will have a better program and will be more interested in it than one which attempts to use a ready-made setup.

Safety Committees in Municipal Governments

Safety programs in municipal government are often carried out through a general or central safety committee. Such a committee is usually composed of department heads and supervisors.

To carry out the work of a general committee of this type, small special subcommittees are formed, such as an eye protection committee, an attendance committee, and a rules committee. The function of these subcommittees is to create interest in and carry out the various phases of the safety program. For example, the eye protection committee may specify when eye protection is to be worn and put on drives when there is a letdown in the wearing of eye protection. They can make recommendations for those who need prescription glasses.

Promoting Safety Committee Activity

The ultimate success of any safety program, be it on the broad company basis or on the more restricted committee level, is controlled in great measure by two important factors: first, maintaining interest and, second, giving recognition to employees who render a service to safety.

Maintaining interest

There are many ways of maintaining interest among safety committeemen. To begin with, the men selected to serve on the committee must have the interest of the safety work at heart. Then, to maintain that interest requires constant effort on the part of the chairman, the safety engineer, and the general safety committee or the central organization. Members of safety committees should be given something to do other than mere reporting of unsafe conditions and practices. They should be given a more active part in the work and made to feel that the success of the committee depends upon the individual support of each