

MAINTAINING INTEREST IN SAFETY

tion of a change in company policy, or the announcement of an exceptionally fine safety record Fig 7-1 shows how one plant turns out for presentation of a National Safety Council award

In companies with plants in different cities, a top executive may call a meeting of employees when he visits a plant His talk may cover safety as well as other subjects One company president makes an annual round of plants with the safety director and speaks at a safety rally of all employees at each plant

Under certain conditions, particularly in smaller communities, it may be advisable to hold the mass meetings in a local theater or public hall It then becomes necessary to make fairly elaborate arrangements and to give the meetings considerable publicity to assure good attendance

A mass meeting in a public hall naturally has one advantage over a plant meeting It makes possible the attendance not only of employees, but also of their wives or husbands, families, and friends

"Family safety nights" of this sort are very popular in the railroad industry A considerable number may be held at several different points on the railroad during the year.

In addition to the address or two around which the program is centered, there should be some worthwhile entertainment Often good talent can be found right in the plant

This type of meeting affords an excellent opportunity for using an outside speaker who can talk authoritatively and convincingly on general accident prevention work Such a speaker can be obtained from a nearby plant, an insurance company, the city administration, an automobile club, or a community safety council

If movies relating to accident prevention are desired, a suitable selection can be made from films available through the National Safety Council or through regional film service organizations, whose locations may be obtained from the Council

Departmental meetings have many safety uses Their purpose may be to discuss the company safety program so that employees will better understand what is going on They may be held to provide information about accident causes and accident types They may be purely inspirational, to create

an awareness of hazards and a desire to prevent accidents

In many company programs, departmental safety meetings are held monthly Sometimes the meetings are conducted by the safety director, although the trend is toward meetings conducted by the foreman He may receive assistance in planning as well as various materials, such as visual aids, from the safety department

The program for a departmental meeting may include the following

- 1 Report of injuries in the department since the past meeting, report of a safety inspection in the department, and report of the department's standing in a contest (The total time spent on reports must not be so great that this part of the meeting becomes tiresome)
- 2 Discussion by the foreman of where observance of safe practices needs to be improved
- 3 Talk, demonstration, or visual-aid presentation on an appropriate accident prevention subject The speaker may be the foreman, a member of the department, the company safety director, an outside expert, or an executive of the company

Departmental meetings give the foreman an opportunity to point out in a forceful manner the dangers of certain unsafe practices By condemning those practices, he practically binds himself to set a good example for his men In addition, most workers welcome an opportunity to "get off their chests" whatever safety ideas they have The workers will follow the lead of the foreman to a surprising degree Instead of discussing the shortcomings of the management as might be expected, they invariably tell of specific accidents that could have been prevented only by safe practices on the part of the men

At the conclusion of departmental meetings, the foremen in some plants are required to prepare written reports for presentation to the plant safety committees and review by the managers Even if not required, it would be good for the safety engineer to make a report

Small group meetings with men doing similar kinds of work can be held at or near the work place The foreman may discuss the causes of an accident of which the men have personal knowledge or in which they