

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

Closed-circuit TV has been employed to advantage in special situations involving extreme hazards or through relay or by the use of several monitor sets, to multiply its effectiveness.

However, most other visuals are less complicated to produce and employ. Thus, closed-circuit television ordinarily is not feasible for use as a safety aid exclusively.

Audio Aids

Purely audio aids include tape recorders, radio, commercial recordings and public address systems.

Tape recorders

A tape recorder can be used in a number of ways. One safety man, using a battery-operated recorder, dictates a running commentary while photographing safe or unsafe operating conditions, new processes or equipment that require subsequent study. This method proves easier than writing notes. After being edited, the tape is used with the slides to make up a training tool.

A tape recorder can record minutes in safety meetings, valuable discussion in training sessions, and on-the-job interviews which may prove useful later for bulletins, newsletters, and future meetings.

A well-known speaker on audio-visual aids even uses a tape recorder to "argue with himself" at meetings.

Tapes can also be prerecorded in different languages for foreign speaking workers.

Radio

Radio can serve as a medium to promote accident prevention through scheduled programs on various aspects of home, traffic, and community safety. Spot announcements concerned with traffic safety, for instance, commonly are broadcast at frequent intervals by local stations during long holiday periods such as the Labor Day weekend.

Commercial recordings

Music, special sound effects, and even dramatic episodes on commercial recording can be added to safety talks, slide scripts, and the like, to give a professional touch.

Public address systems

A public address system is a useful tool for making safety announcements, directing emergency evacuations, and perhaps even publicizing unusual safety achievements.

There is some question as to whether public address systems should be used to broadcast safety messages on the job. Some administrators feel that music or messages might prove dangerously distracting to workers at moving machinery or on other work which requires full attention. This technique may not be effective and may even draw complaints if used excessively.

Portable public address systems have been used by supervisors and safety men as an aid in on-the-job meetings, either to help overcome extraneous noise or to create a dramatic effect.

References

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