

SAFETY COMMITTEES

member, the primary aim being to arouse interest in the work among all employees to the extent that they will realize that safety is just as important to them as the work they perform

Among the ways of arousing and maintaining interest among committeemen, none is more effective than supplying members with informative material, such as data from outside sources, frequency of certain classes of accidents, and comparative statements with other months of the year, other years, and other organizations. Pamphlets published by the National Safety Council and information gained through the columns of the *National Safety News* provide helpful information for committee members and may be used to advantage in promoting a safety spurt.

Monthly newsletters, consisting of contributions from members of safety committees, information concerning certain classes of accidents noticeable by their frequency, their causes and methods for overcoming them, and interesting articles taken from other magazines and plant publications, are often used to advantage

Knowledge in every occupation is the surest basis of success. The value of educating employees in accident prevention lies in their automatically watching out for ways in which men are injured and coming to realize that the personal causes of accidents are just as serious as the mechanical causes

There are many other ways of maintaining interest among committeemen, such as well-prepared posters, safety rallies, proper and prompt handling of suggestions by chairmen, rotation of members, membership cards, safety buttons and emblems, and awards for special accomplishments in connection with the safety program

A committee must have leadership—someone who will be its life, make it go. This is not the problem of finding a good safety engineer. It is the problem of finding a leader. He should have the confidence of other committee members, be familiar with the practical side of the accident problem, be enthusiastic about the safety program, have a balanced personality, be understanding of other members and able to draw out discussion rather than dominate it, and be somewhat familiar with committee practice and procedure.

Recognition by management

It is important that management indicate in some way or other its appreciation of the service rendered by safety committee members. The method employed to do this need not involve undue expense or difficulty. The following suggestions are worthy of careful consideration.

1. Letter of appreciation signed by the general superintendent, plant manager, or an officer of the company.
2. Certificate of service that can be framed and displayed in the worker's home
3. Card or badge of membership.
4. Expression of appreciation at a general employee group meeting
5. Special dinner for safety committee members

Carrying out one or more of the above suggestions is one definite way to encourage the members of a safety committee. Other methods should be employed, too, to convince these men—and through them the whole body of workers—that safety is a serious matter, that the management is sincerely interested, that the executives are more than eager to do their part, and that worker cooperation is essential for success

References

- Blake, Roland P., editor *Industrial Safety*, 3rd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N. J., Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1963
- Blake, Roland P., compiler *Safety Subjects*. Washington, D. C., U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, Bulletin No. 67 (rev.)