Arborists’ Big Job:
Cut Out The “Little” Accidents
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he’s taught. On-the-job show-offs usually end up as compensation statistics.

Safety seminars, held weekly or biweekly, have worked successfully in other industries, and can help arborists, too. Seminars should be started by top management to be most effective. Management must enlist and hold the active participation of employees to keep such a program effective.

Lectures don’t work. Visual aids and demonstrations help men retain what they’re taught. Seminars should combine technology with safety, e.g. “How to use lopping shears safely.” One lesson on lopping shears, then a lecture on “Be Safe,” will not come across.

Employees can also participate in demonstrations for the benefit of their co-workers. Graphs of past years’ accidents compared with current performance will give men a competitive feeling.

Set Proper Example

On the job, field supervisors and foremen have to know and practice safe working habits. They must set examples for newer employees. They should reprimand workers using unsafe methods. Foremen who let minor infractions slip by, open the way for minor accidents—the kind that inevitably cause injury and increase insurance rates.

Tree companies usually work from widely spaced trucks, which may or may not be stored overnight at a main office. Safety posters on an office wall don’t help the man in the field. However, posters installed in truck cabs (away from public view) remind men to and from work of the company’s safety message. These posters have to be changed regularly so they don’t become sour.

Many of the tree experts “safe,” easy-to-use tools cause accidents: hand saws, pole saws, power saws, shears, axes, brush hooks, and even gouges. Small checklist labels stuck on exposed parts of these tools will attract attention and remind men to make certain the tool is operable, to see that there are no other men near who could be harmed, or that the operator has no loose sleeves or pants cuffs which could catch in the tool, etc. Checklist instructions are a very helpful learning method.

Both truck posters and tool checklists are meant to supplement safety seminars and shouldn’t be substituted for such meetings.

Our last suggestion is Employee Safety Courts. Several men (employees) sit on a “jury,” and periodically hear reports of accidents from those involved. They determine the degree of guilt; whether there was negligence or whether the person involved did foresee hazard and take necessary precautions. For instance, a man who dropped a power saw onto his own toe and was injured because he forgot to wear his steel-toe shoes, would be found guilty of negligence; he would receive a designated number of points against him.

Discipline for reaching the maximum number of points is usually decided by management. This court system has worked in other industries and should work for arborists also.

If tree service accident statistics could be separated, the half tabulating those hazardous jobs arborists perform, we believe, would be more respectable. Supervisors have taught their specialists to recognize hazards and work safely with them. Although safety training for aerial workers cannot be neglected or reduced, groundmen have to be shown how to do their jobs properly, too.

Calchem Builds Pilot Plant

A pilot pesticide plant designed by the Ortho Div. of California Chemical Company to accelerate market and process development of its new pesticide products is under construction at Richmond, Calif. Completion is scheduled for January.

According to W. G. Toland, Manager, Research and Development, this intermediate facility between ordinary pilot plant operation and complete commercial installation, will provide a practical study of process techniques and equipment which can be used in the design of full-scale production facilities.