

Walsh Asks For Driver Training

Frank P. Walsh has appealed to adult educators and safety and training directors to take the initiative and to use their skills to stop traffic accidents. Mr. Walsh, president of the Washington, D. C. Chapter, ASTD, made his request to this group as the last resource available to cut down the mounting toll of deaths and accidents due to highway carelessness.

He described the adult educators as the only people in the nation with the ability to develop proper driving attitudes. Lack of road courtesy, attentiveness, and defensive driving are among the main causes of vehicular accidents.

He stated flatly that the efforts of local and state police to enforce traffic regulations and of engineers to build better roads have had limited impact on accidents.

On the other hand, training and safety directors can point with pride to their successful accident prevention programs which have made their factories and offices many times safer than homes and highways.

Mr. Walsh gave an account of an experiment conducted in an Ohio firm in which guidance in off-the-job accident prevention was combined with on-the-job safety training. The results proved there was a carry-over of safe attitudes to employee jobs performed around the house and to pleasure driving. The documented record shows a remarkably low accident rate in all three areas.

Walsh outlined a tested and effective safe driving program that can be set up by adult educators and community service agencies. The program includes:

1. Operational observations, checks, and actions to "protect" the vehicle and to avoid stoppages in danger situations.
2. Safe driving principles.
3. Defensive driving tactics.
4. Common driver accidents and faults.
5. Special tests for reaction time, depth perception, field of vision, visual acuity, etc.
6. Sound movies, booklets, charts, and other training aids to supplement above.

Car window stickers, local awards, newspaper publicity provide recognition to participants.

ASTD DUES NOTICE

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