

"SAFETY PARALYSIS"

It is a very dangerous and deadly disease that creeps with no warning upon some of us occasionally. We don't even know we have it until suddenly we find ourselves all bandaged up, flat on our backs in bed. It is caused by forgetting the rules of safety; and it is contagious.

We know of one case where safety paralysis set in with horrible results. The miner attended a Saturday Safety Meeting with a few drinks under his belt. He hadn't paid any particular attention to what went on -- same old stuff -- he was anxious to get out and get a few more. He did, and enough in a bottle to carry him over Sunday. Monday morning he had a "hangover". He neglected something. The miner in the next room rushed over when he heard a slate fall, and found him under it.

An epidemic of safety paralysis has been sweeping the mines of our state and nation during the year. The record is so bad that it cannot be made good during the short space of time before the end of 1942. Coal mines have had more accidents in one single month than they previously had in an entire year. Safety men and foremen have been fighting their hearts out to stop this onrush of accidents and injuries, but they cannot do the job alone. Unless each of us cooperates there can be no good results.

Only those to whom injury and death strike close are seriously affected by the occasional injury that happens in every mine not thinking and acting safely. The rest of us hear or read about these tragic affairs -- and forget them -- unless we have horse-sense enough to ask ourselves, "Can that happen to me?"

When you start the day tomorrow decide to make it your Safety Day -- just yours personally. With safety uppermost in your mind, watch how you do things, look for possible hazards in your working place and section, try as hard as you can to make your place safer, both for yourself and the men, trackmen, haulage crews, machinemen, and others who must also do their work there. You will be surprised and shocked to see how many things you are doing, how many hazards there are that can injure you and others terribly.

The cost of accidents has been gone over many times. You know what it would mean to you if you were injured so that you couldn't work and the bills would mount so high that you couldn't even buy Christmas presents for the kids. You know what it would mean to your family if they had to stand by and watch you suffer as the result of a foolish, careless act on your part. People feel sorry for a man who's hurt himself through a fault of his own, but they go away talking about what a dummy he was to do such a thing.

GUARD AGAINST THIS SAFETY PARALYSIS. BE CAREFUL AND OBSERVE THE RULES.