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## Duke Establishes Safety Committee



**HARD HATS ON THE JOB**—Maintenance employes now wear hard hats while working, each division with its own color. Some of the men have taken to decorating their headgear—one even has "eyes" in the back of his hat (or is that head?). (staff photo)

"The University recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe environment for employes and all other members of the University community."

So begins the University's comprehensive policy statement on safety issued several weeks ago. The idea is to make Duke a safer place to work.

Under the new policy, a University-wide Safety Committee was established along with separate sub-committees and safety offices for the general campus and the Medical Center.

Marshall Fowler, the Medical Center's fire marshal and safety officer, explained that the biggest project the committee will undertake is monitoring implementation of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

"OSHA is the most comprehensive program to protect the health and personal safety of employes ever set up by the government," Mr. Fowler

explained. "It covers all occupations and all employes."

One of the most visible moves to increase personal safety for Duke employes is the recent plan for all Maintenance Department workers to wear hard hats on the job. Maintenance employes have also been provided with protective glasses to be used when a job presents possible eye hazards.

Another policy recently implemented concerns the storage and handling of compressed gases, an item used frequently around the Medical Center.

"These cylinders can be extremely dangerous if they're not properly taken care of," Mr. Fowler said. "We saw the need to set up standards for their use and then wrote up the policy."

The process of identifying a particular need for safety precautions and then compiling a policy according to OSHA guidelines will be the usual procedure for the Medical Center's Safety Committee.

"We're beginning to check into every area of the Medical Center, determine if any safety problems exist, and then make recommendations to correct them," Mr. Fowler said. "We want to expand our program of safety observers (employes presently inspecting patient areas weekly) to include the rest of the Medical Center."

Though the safety committee will be working to correct any hazards related to electrical machinery, flammable liquids, radiation, and others possible in the Medical Center environment, they will also be checking standards for two items recently added to the list of potentially harmful factors; noise levels and air quality.

Hospitals are not on the first priority list for federal OSHA inspectors, but Mr. Fowler explained that safety officers from the U.S. Department of Labor could make a spot check at the Medical Center any time.

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## Traffic Ban Set On West Quad

As the result of action by the University Traffic Commission, beginning March 27 parking and vehicular traffic will be discontinued in the upper part of the Duke main quadrangle from the campus bus stop to the Duke Chapel.

"Though this will not have a direct effect on Medical Center employes," Ted Marvin of the Public Safety Department explained, "we wanted everyone to know about the change."

The reasons for the ban, according to Traffic Commission Chairman James Adams, include the noise problems associated with so much traffic through the area and the effect of parked cars on the beauty of the main quad.

Barricades will be erected and locked in place to prevent cars from entering the area.

Anyone attending movies, plays, or other events at Page Auditorium will be allowed to drive back to the auditorium to discharge passengers, but no parking will be permitted there for such events.

There will be three exceptions to the no-parking rule. Persons attending worship or other special services at Duke Chapel, members of the Board of Trustees visiting the campus, and service vehicles will be allowed to park behind the barricades.

The action to bar parking and traffic from the Duke Chapel to the bus stop was approved by the Traffic Commission upon recommendation by the University's Educational Facilities Committee earlier this month. The facilities sub-committee of the campus-wide Planning Committee also supported the move.