

NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

May 23rd, 2019 - Mtg. Minutes



1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 3/19 minutes.
 - 1.1. Bob Henderson - Capitol, Alan Keser - 48, Debbie Spickerman - 48, Josh Carter - 48 and Larry Reynolds - 48, and Barry Moreland - NIETC.
2. **Communications** -
 - 2.1. Handouts related to business items listed below were distributed.
3. **Old business** -
 - 3.1. Non-contact voltage detector (tick tracer) limitations. The committee reviewed manufacture operating manuals and identified a number a ways tick tracers are being misused in the field. Barry will provide additional information / training to apprentices and develop an [article](#) for distribution to contractors to use as a tool box topic.
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1. Safety week at NIETC recap - Barry shared a [list of reported injuries](#) that was used in apprentice classes during Safety Week to illustrate injury trends and create awareness of frequency / severity of events. Alan to share at general membership meeting. Every one of the 22 items were preventable.
 - 4.2. A discussion on OSHA's newly revised crane operator evaluation requirements took place. Certification (license) is no longer sufficient and employers are to document a formal operator evaluation. OR-OSHA to begin enforcement 1/2020. [FAQ Sheet](#) for more information.
 - 4.3. A recap of events from the recent IBEW Safety Caucus and NIECA Safety Professional Conference took place. Still in draft form, NECA is working on establishing safety certifications for those working in that capacity based on training and job functions. The "NECA Safety Professional" would be a 2 tier structure with level 1 or 2 based on overall safety management skillsets and training. Alan stated that if this goes through, it could be used as a good marketing tool for our contractors. More information to follow as NECA continues work on this project.
 - 4.4. Use of earbuds during field work - the committee shared examples where the use of earbuds for listening to music etc. were not allowed by client / GC and even if allowed,

the safety hazards that it can poses. Some employers allow it in pre-fab environments but overwhelming opinion is that they should not be allowed.

5. Round Table - Injury Reports - Lessons Learned

- 5.1. Report of JW trying to remove concrete anchor on floor with claw hammer, while holding the anchor, and strikes thumb - splitting it open and breaking tip of bone.
- 5.2. Report of JW injury to foot when roller on Maxxis tugger comes loose and falls onto toe. Pin was missing and possible root causes hinge on lack of training of assembly of tugger. Safety toe boots were not required but would have significantly reduced injury severity.
- 5.3. Josh shared an OSHA interpretation on the use of massage / physical therapy as a mandatory recordable incident.
- 5.4. A concern over MRSA and shared use of arc-rated PPE was voiced. It appears that frequency of laundry may be an issue. Barry to survey contractor safety reps on how they track PPE use and laundry cycles.

The meeting was concluded at 3:05 PM and the next meeting is scheduled for July 18th, at 2:00 PM, at the NIETC.