

NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

March 16th, 2022



Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 1/19/22 minutes.
 - 1.1. Josh Carter - IBEW 48, Nowel Johnson - GB Manchester, Larry Reynolds - OEG, Steve Huson - MPE and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
2. **Communications** - Publications / Handouts / Safety Resources
 - 2.1. OR-OSHA Silica Rules / compliance - online at <https://osha.oregon.gov/edu/courses/Pages/silica-online-course.aspx>
 - 2.2. AGC Silica CP class - online at <https://www.agc-oregon.org/training/silica/>
 - 2.3. AGC Trenching Excavation CP class
 - 2.4. Ladder Safety Month 3/22 - <https://www.laddersafetymonth.com>
3. **Old business** -
 - 3.1. CBA Safety Language - the committee continued discussions related to improving current safety language within the CBA. First area of focus is to better clarify the 2-JW rule when performing energized work **whenever** the electrical hazard(s) warrant, not just based on voltage alone. Barry to draft up a sample version for review at the next meeting. Larry reported that electrical gear with appropriate finger safe barriers can complicate this decision as arc flash hazards may still be present and potentially overlooked.
 - 3.2. Reminders about registration for the upcoming IBEW [Safety Caucus](#) and NECA [Safety Professionals Conference](#) were made. Both events happen in May and are held in the Phoenix / Scottsdale area this year.
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1. OSHA rule making - the committee reviewed sample language likely to be found in new rules from Oregon and Washington OSHA programs related to exposure to High Heat and Wildfire Smoke / Air Quality. Unfortunately, each state has taken a bit different approach to compliance requirements based on trigger temperatures and Air Quality Index numbers. WA has also began dialogue with stakeholders on revising their Trenching / Excavation rules to potentially require formal documentation of cave-in protection and emergency response due to engulf-

ment. At this time, only meeting minutes exist and final proposed rule language is forthcoming.

- 4.2. COVID / Masks - Barry reminded the group that, while face masks, social distancing, contact tracing and Close Contact quarantine requirements are no longer mandatory in Oregon, OR-OSHA's COVID rules are still in place and pose specific compliance obligations on employers until the rule is finally rescinded.
- 4.3. NIETC Boot Program reviewed - due to Intel now requiring safety toe boots to work on their premises, the committee reviewed the reimbursement claim process.
- 4.4. UG Utility Strikes - a large number of buried utility lines were reportedly struck / damaged over the last few months. The committee reviewed basic OUNC "Call before you dig" (811) requirements. Steve reported completing the OUNC's free [online excavation course](#) and the benefits it can provide your digging crews.

5. Round Table - Injury Reports - Lessons Learned

- 5.1. Reported injuries -
 - 5.1.1. staples to head when ground rod driver falls and strikes apprentice (no hardhat worn)
 - 5.1.2. Nail through boot sole - limited duty for a couple of days.
 - 5.1.3. Nowel reported on progress with PTSD awareness campaign and how reaching out to fellow employees and sharing with them information about what causes the condition can open up further discussion and ultimately options to get professional help.
 - 5.1.4. Steve asked about fit testing of N95 respirators and employees with facial hair causing a bad seal. Barry to look into this further.

The meeting was concluded at 3:10 PM and the next meeting is scheduled for May 11th, at 2:00 PM, at the NIETC. **NOTE** - the May meeting is moved up a week to accommodate attendance at the NECA Safety Conference.