

NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

January 19th, 2022



Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 11/17/21 minutes.
 - 1.1. Josh Carter - IBEW 48, Ilene Ferrell - Cochran, Matt Harris - OEG, Nowel Johnson - GB Manchester, Joe Fuerstenberg - Hughes Electric and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
2. **Communications** - Handouts related to business items below were distributed.
 - 2.1. Reported Injuries
3. **Old business** -
 - 3.1. CBA Safety Language - the committee discussed options to draft improved language for high time work and survey members / safety reps to measure understanding of when multiple workers are required during energized electrical work tasks.
 - 3.2. Fed OSHA COVID ETS - with the SCOTUS declaring the Federal OSHA ETS Vaccine or Test Mandate to be invalid the committee will continue to monitor OR and WA OSHA programs for any state initiated COVID vaccine rules.
 - 3.2.1. Nowel pointed out that we still have projects where the clients have implemented similar requirements and employers have to carefully explain this message to their workforce for better buy in.
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1. Apprentice supervision & training concerns - the committee continued discussions related to recent injuries, general worker fatigue / burnout and overall lack of training / supervision concerns. Ilene and Matt shared company tool box talks about supervision and training. Joe shared he is seeing an increase in workers who are disconnected and miss hazards in the work area / not paying attention to "situational awareness". More work on these issues is necessary.

4.2. Safety Awards - NECA and IBEW

4.2.1. NECA Safety Recognition Program is now open for [applications](#). Contractors are encouraged to apply. In 2021 we had the largest number of contractors receive safety awards for their 2020 safety performance.

4.2.2. [IBEW Life Saving Award](#) - Josh presented 3 awards to our members at the December membership meeting for their actions in response to a workplace accident where other trade workers were injured. The Electrical Worker magazine to do an article on this event.

4.3. OSHA Record Keeping / Reporting - the group discussed the OSHA [300, 300A](#) and 301 information that must be summarized, certified and posted where employees can see it by February 1, 2022. It must remain posted until April 30th, 2022. Also, those employers who are subject to electronic reporting (20+ employees) must upload their information to OSHA using the [Injury Tracking Portal](#) by March 2, 2022. Barry to ask contractors to share any injury trends they identify after reviewing their annual report with the JSC.

4.4. The committee discussed challenges with new safety personnel who do not have the experience, training or knowledge to address workplace safety decisions. In one such incident, apprentice was told by their foreman to climb the rails of the scissor lift, (using a personal fall arrest system) to access the work location. This action was witnessed by the client's safety personnel who immediately called them down and initiated an incident review. During the review it was unclear what method was considered acceptable by different safety and supervisory individuals. Matt commented that confusion exists with workers because different requirements by different GCs and clients. Ilene questioned why the confusion because the client requires training and attendance at safety meetings by safety personnel / supervision.

5. **Round Table - Injury Reports - Lessons Learned**

5.1. Incident / Injuries -

5.1.1. 3 lacerations due to improper use of knives were discussed. 10 stitches, 9 stitches and 4 stitches to hands was the outcome. 3 separate events. 1 involving removal of MV cable insulation, 1 involved removal of wood from cabinet to allow installation of light fixture and 1 involved removing tape from ends of conductors and hand hit open knife.

5.1.2. 1 fall with resulting torn rotator cuff when pant leg caught a protruding nail on some cribbed materials causing worker to fall.

5.1.3. 1 slip and fall into ductwork when unsecured scaffold plank shifts. Scaffold was green tagged but someone had modified it and did not have it securely

anchored to supporting structure. Worker bruised ribs when they hit against ductwork. May have noticed this condition if they also inspected the work area / scaffold planking.

- 5.1.4. Concussion when back of head strikes metal racking. Hardhats not required when working in data closet. Worker bent down to pick up tool and when they stood back up they did not realize they were so close to the racking and struck the back of head. Got nauseous / sick and taken to the hospital for evaluation.
- 5.2. The committee discussed CDC isolation and quarantine protocols and how some job sites are requiring something different and the confusion that creates.
- 5.3. Fit testing when using N95s - what does OSHA say about fit testing / medical clearance when a client requires that workers wear N95s to address COVID? This is outside of how these respirators are typically applied for workplace airborne particulates. Barry to research answer.

The meeting was concluded at 3:15 PM and the next meeting is scheduled for March 19th, at 2:00 PM, at the NIETC.