

NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

January 19th, 2023



Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 11/22 minutes.
 - 1.1. Josh Carter - IBEW 48, Larry Reynolds - IBEW 48, Ilene Ferrell - Cochran, Dave Unsell - Accurate, Bob Henderson - Capitol, Jeff Cordill - Christenson, Matt Harris - OEG, Steve Huson - Mill Plain, Debbie Spickerman - Dyna, Dave Jacobsen - IBEW 48 and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
2. **Communications** - Publications / Handouts / Safety Resources
 - 2.1. [CPWR Electrical Injuries & Citations in Construction](#) - reminder about the challenges we face performing electrical work & exposure to contact with energized equipment both temporary and permanently installed.
 - 2.2. [NECA Safety Awards Application](#) - Contractors should apply - easy to do
 - 2.3. [988 Suicide / Crisis Lifeline](#) - Good advertising of this resource Poker Chips
 - 2.4. [OSHA update on stress in the workplace](#)
3. **Old business** -
 - 3.1. Hardhats / Helmets - The committee discussed pros and cons of the newer styled hardhats that have integrated chin straps and are required by some GCs and electrical contractors. Jeff shared info on the [WaveCell](#) model and Ilene talked about a recent [CDC article](#) about helmets and traumatic brain injuries.
4. New Business
 - 4.1. CBA safety language 10.06 = 2 JWs required when splicing energized cables - What does this mean / require exactly? Barry to research the genesis of these Category 1 requirements.
 - 4.2. OR-OSHA [FAME Report](#) & IBEW 48 receiving notice about OSHA inspections? - Barry surveyed the group to see if OSHA is meeting their inspection obligations by informing labor representatives about inspection walk arounds and ultimately the outcome of inspections, citations or otherwise. Federal OSHA's annual audit

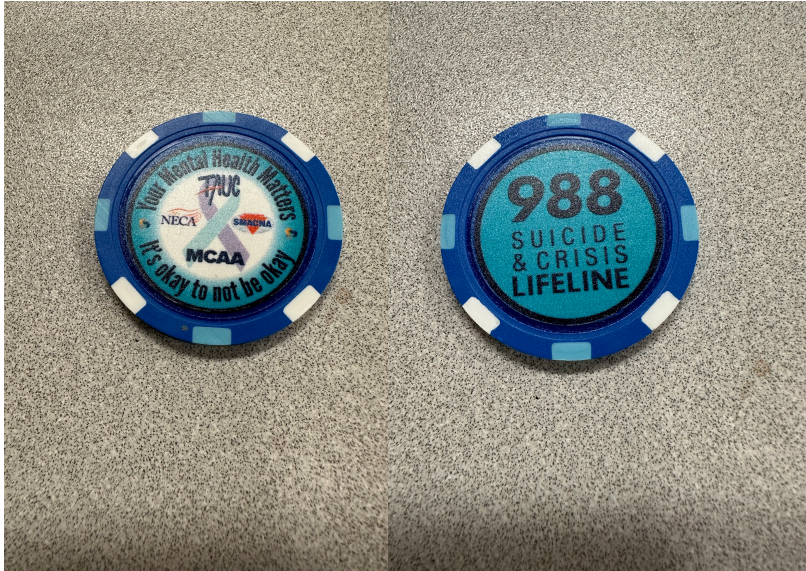
(FAME Report) indicated OR-OSHA has not met minimum inspection numbers for the last 3 years. Bob reported situations of upset workers calling OSHA due to workplace safety concerns before notifying their own employer and giving them an opportunity to get involved.

- 4.3. DC Battery Hazards - A report from the field about an electrical fire to a DC battery cabinet being delivered by truck was discussed. The NFPA 70E does have basic guidance about the hazards of DC systems however, the unique scenario here is that the cabinet had batteries already installed and electrically interconnected. The load was not properly secured and the batteries made contact with the metal enclosure which created an arc flash and fire. Concerns about workers receiving similar equipment on job sites and possibly unaware of the condition of the batteries and cabinet. Potential for exposure to arc and chemical burns without proper training and use of PPE.
- 4.4. [NFPA 70B](#) becomes a Standard - The group discussed the fairly unknown NFPA document (70B) that was up until 2023, considered a best practice guide that recommended (should do) preventative maintenance of electrical equipment. The 2023 edition transitions to a Standard which now makes maintenance mandatory (shall do). An educational campaign towards our facility owners about these requirements will help reduce risks when performing justified EEW and general interaction with electrical equipment.

5. Round Table - Injury Reports - Lessons Learned

- 5.1. Apprentice slices thumb while stripping insulation off cables - razor knife
- 5.2. Apprentice cuts finger with snips (scissors) during fire alarm cable installation
- 5.3. Apprentice shocked by damaged extension cord
- 5.4. JW burned by arc flash when working inside energized ATS - no PPE at all
- 5.5. JW struck by forklift operated by client employee
- 5.6. Apprentice calf strain / MSD - no cause identified
- 5.7. Steve reminded group about hazards of hot saw use and in particular making sure the blade is the correct one, rated for the maximum RPM and installed correctly.
- 5.8. Material Handler cut by utility knife
- 5.9. Material Handler hit in head disassembling conduit rack - didn't know it folded inwards
- 5.10. Jeff asked about proper storage of lithium Ion batteries and what others are doing / requirements on job sites - Barry to research.
- 5.11. Matt asked what resources / efforts the IBEW can do to also emphasize workplace safety for dual message from both employers and labor.

The meeting was concluded at 3:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16th, at 2:00 PM, at the NIETC in room #3.



Section 10.06 - JW, while splicing cable, shall not be required to work on wires or cables when the difference in potentials is over 200 V between any two conductors, or between any conductor and ground, unless assisted by one JW. In no case shall JW, while splicing cable, be required to work on energized cables carrying in excess of 480V.



- A total of 1,288 inspections were conducted: 930 safety and 358 health inspections. This is only 36.1% of the annual performance goal of 3570. **The safety inspections were 64% below the low end of the FRL range of 2,584 to 2,856 and health inspections were 56% below the low end of the FRL range of 807.50 to 892.50**

(SAMM 7). Oregon OSHA's performance on meeting its inspection goal has been tracked as an observation (Observation FY 2020-OB-01) for the past three years. The state reduced the inspection goal from 4,300 inspections to 3,570 inspections in FY 2021; however, **the goal is still not being met by a significant margin; therefore, this observation was elevated to a finding in FY 2021.**