

# NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

March 16th, 2023



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## Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 1/19/23 minutes.
  - 1.1. Troy Nichols - Stoner, Bob Henderson - Capitol, Jeff Cordill - Christenson, Shane Tercek - Capitol, Debbie Spickerman - IBEW 48, Joe Forest - McKinstry and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
  
2. **Communications** - Publications / Handouts / Safety Resources
  - 2.1. March = Ladder Safety Month - [laddersafetymonth.com](http://laddersafetymonth.com) (good training resources here)
    - 2.1.1. GOSH - [Ladder Guard Product](#) (interesting barrier to prevent stepping on top step and second step of self supporting ladders)
  - 2.2. Fall Protection Recall Website - <https://gravitec.com/product-recalls-safety-alerts-notice/> (A simple collection of multi-manufacturer fall protection recalls - Thanks Mark H! - CCE)
    - 2.2.1. [ANSI Z359-21 SRL Update](#)
  
3. **Old business** -
  - 3.1. CBA safety language - 2 JWs splicing cable? - Barry still awaiting information about intended application. Until then continue to base EEW safe work practices, including establishing when additional workers may be required, following NFPA 70E protocols.
  - 3.2. Union receiving notice of OSHA inspections Update - Oregon OSHA doing better notifying 48 about job site inspections however, improvements can be made.
  - 3.3. Lithium battery storage concerns - only general safety guidance from battery tool manufactures regarding safe storage in cool, dry place without potential of shorting out on other conductive items in same storage gang box / vehicle could be found. Jobsite protocols for storage and removal of battery when tool not in use vary widely.
  - 3.4. 988 Poker chips - this 4 agency campaign produced a limited number of chips and those who want more should contact Wes Wheeler at [National NECA](#).

#### 4. New Business

- 4.1. Jobsite audit reports - Barry gave a report on recent job site audits due to member concerns about struck-by / caught-in, fall protection, shock and confined space / LOTO hazards. He reported that during the first 2 months of 2023 we have experienced a number of significant injuries, shocks and a very concerning chemical exposure. See incident report below.
- 4.2. ANSI / SRL design and use - the committee discussed recent changes to the design and application of self retracting lifelines based on [ANSI Z359-21 up-dates](#). Concerns about end user confusion of these new classes and types with extended arrest distances warrants additional training as contractors purchase these new products and put them in the field. Barry to develop a fact sheet / tool box talk for distribution. Adoption of this voluntary ANSI Standard to take place in August, 2023. It is NOT adopted by OSHA at this time.
- 4.3. OSHA Penalties - Feds and Oregon - Information about Federal OSHA's new emphasis on expanding citations to an "[instance-by-instance](#)" approach and not grouping multiple violations into one citation amount was discussed. As State Plans like OR & WA must follow what Federal OSHA does we will likely see rule making or similar directives from our local OSHA programs. Furthermore, citations amounts in Oregon may increase significantly depending on the outcome of [SB 592](#). More information to follow.
- 4.4. MV Induction voltage testers - a number of incidents involving medium voltage SHIELDED cable have occurred due to misunderstanding [how induction testers work](#). The short answer is that they will NOT work on shielded cable when used directly on the insulated cable span. They can work at termination ends where the conductor is exposed (lug terminations etc.)
- 4.5. Women Specific PPE - the committee addressed the challenge with finding PPE, especially fall protection harnesses, that properly fit the many sizes and shapes of our workers. Manufacturers have been slow to respond to offer a variety of selections for women specific designs. OSHA requires that when selecting PPE it must properly fit and be designed for the specific application.

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

- 5.1.1. App injures knee moving axle stands
- 5.1.2. JW fractures ankle slipping on plastic floor covering
- 5.1.3. JW falls in raised floor opening - calf laceration - pulling cable at 90 degree turn. Pulling crew out of sync with injured employee feeding conductors. Pulled worker into hole essentially.
- 5.1.4. App receives 120v shock trimming out branch circuit devices - switch conductors erroneously tied into another circuit which was then energized.

- 5.1.5. App receives 277v shock making up J box with MC cable energized inside that was not supposed to be in that particular J box
- 5.1.6. JW exposed to HF gas while working under raised metal floor structure - gas line feeding tools in the area was cut to remove a tool but was not capped off properly.
- 5.1.7. Heat exhaustion / stress to worker in clean room suit working in interstitial area of clean room - buddy system in place
- 5.1.8. Concerns about proper fit of PPE for workers - women specific fall protection - new styles being tried out
- 5.1.9. App reports strained back during CLX install - late reporting concerns - reduced crew size due to snow
- 5.1.10. Long COVID illness and return to work challenges

6. **Up Next** - The next meeting is scheduled for May 18th, at 2:00 PM, at the NIETC in room #3. Barry to send out meeting invite and reminder.