

NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

July 20th, 2023



Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 5/18/23 minutes.
 - 1.1. Bob Henderson - Capitol, Ilene Ferrell - Cochran, Josh Carter - IBEW 48, Steve Huson - MPE, Jolene Burum - E.C. Company, Marvin Aguilar - OEG, Dave Jacobsen - IBEW 48, Dave Unsell - Accurate Electric, Jeff Cordill - Christenson and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
2. **Old business** - none
3. **New business**
 - 3.1. ANSI Z359.14 SRD issues - committee discussed [revisions to ANSI Z358.14](#) in which fall protection equipment manufactures are redesigning SRLs / SRDs with new ratings, labelling and end use applications. This will create confusion with use of older retractable devices, especially when selecting anchor point connection location and establishing minimum fall arrest clearance distances. The updated standard has not been adopted by OSHA so older equipment IS still legal to use.
 - 3.2. WA DOSH Heat Illness rule revisions - a [fact sheet](#) illustrating the latest heat illness compliance requirements for WA DOSH was distributed. Protocols in Washington now closely resemble what is required in Oregon making things a bit easier than last year. WA does not use the heat index, rather ambient temperatures alone for rule application. (80 degrees)
 - 3.3. Form 173 - I.O. Injury reports - Barry shared injury and illness reporting requirements as outlined in the NECA - IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement. There are both local and I.O. reporting requirements. The I.O. process uses online form # 173. Injuries and illnesses, especially those involving JWs, seldom are reported to the JSC. Barry to begin sending monthly questionnaires to contractors about any incidents that need to be reported.
 - 3.4. 70E / 70B - EEW Sample Policy - work has begun on updating the sample EEW policy with an expected completion date in early fall. One new element to add to risk assessment process is integration of the newly recognized standard, NFPA 70B "[Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance](#)".

- 3.5. AR PPE Repair - concerns regarding repairing of arc rated PPE were discussed. Minor cuts / tears can be patched and sewn with the proper arc rated materials. It was noted that hook and loop fasteners tend to get worn out quickly necessitating replacement. Always best to check with the manufacturer of the specific PPE for directions and support for proper repair.
- 3.6. Workplace posters - 4 of the required workplace posters need to be updated. The NIETC only produces the combo posters in December each year so when the individual panels are updated mid-year, employers will need to download and print out them.
 - 3.6.1. [Oregon Minimum Wage](#)
 - 3.6.2. [Family and Medical Leave Act](#)
 - 3.6.3. [Know Your Rights](#)
 - 3.6.4. [Fair Labor Standards Act](#)
- 3.7. Fed OSHA rule making - revisions to the annual injury tracking and [reporting requirements](#) were announced. Injury and illness data from all 3 record keeping forms (300, 300A & 301) will now be required from employers working in high hazard environments with 100 + employees.

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

- 4.1. Apprentice shocked 277v when wire nut falls off energized conductors in j-box
- 4.2. JW shocked 277v - LOTO failure - used LOTO device on just one 3 - way toggle switch - reportedly "didn't think their would be voltage on the travelers"???
- 4.3. JW eye injury when wire pull rope broke near end of conduit - rope flung backwards out of conduit and hit worker in the head - was not standing to the side of the tugger. Rope was faulty, worker was wearing safety glasses.
- 4.4. Apprentice struck by falling gutter during removal - not propped up securely - injury to hand and arm
- 4.5. JW shocked when connecting / disconnecting Relock lighting assembly - rated to make / break under load. Could have de-energized circuit but elected not to.
- 4.6. Apprentice shocked on exit light circuit when they reached up to touch exposed wires for some reason. Was not part of contractor's scope of work. Same apprentice following week cut hand during use of uni-bit to drill out metal panel. Held panel in hand. Uni-bit bound up and metal spun in hand.
- 4.7. [OSHA 502 class](#) scheduled for Portland February 27-29, 2024.
- 4.8. Dave Unsell reported GC not wanting to de-energize lighting so crews could work safely and legally. After some educational discussions with the client, ultimately they were able to get the system shut down to perform work. GC was in

a rush to get project completed which clearly does not meet OSHA and NFPA 70E justification requirements. Steve asked for an updated "letter to client" with a more direct message about de-energizing. Barry to craft one before next meeting.

- 4.9. A report of fentanyl tainted water bottles being handed out to workers in CA and NY was given. The water was given to workers by the public, not their employer. Our crews should not take anything from the public even though the vast majority of the time they are well meaning and not trying to harm anyone. The latest incident in CA resulted in one worker fatality and one in critical condition.
 - 4.10. Jolene reported they may have a large number of V-rated gloves to get rid of soon. More info to follow.
 - 4.11. A report about e-hazard NFPA 70B class was given. The class was very informative. NECA to also host a free, 1-hour, [webinar](#) in August with more information on 70B.
 - 4.12. Human error(s) - the committee discussed recent incidents involving human errors resulting in property damage due to events that caused employees to not be on their A game. A fender bender in the morning that caused anxiety throughout the day and loss of focus, a worker who was up all night with sick dog and went to work with serious fatigue were both situations where best action would've been to have worker stay home / go home for the day.
 - 4.13. An incident involving apprentices working from scissor lift overhead and dropping a piece of threaded rod on another electrical crew below was reported. A lack of proper supervision and clear communication from the 2 different foreman was identified as a factor. Only a minor injury on shoulder to the struck by worker.
5. **Up Next** - The next meeting is scheduled for September 21st, at 2:00 PM, at the NI-ETC in room #3. Barry to send out meeting invite and reminder.