

# NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

June 20th, 2024



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## Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 3/21/24 minutes.
  - 1.1. Ilene Ferrell - Cochran, Josh Carter - IBEW 48, Larry Reynolds - IBEW 48, Steve Huson - MPE, Marvin Aguilar- OEG and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
2. **Old business**
  - 2.1. WA Lnl - Per 2023 Senate Bill ESSB 5217, L&I will be pursuing rulemaking to prevent workplace musculoskeletal disorders (E Cs not on current employer list). This could change based on claim rates per our NAICS code.
  - 2.2. WA Lnl - Telehandler suspended load rule making - Filing CR 102 estimated summer 2024 - meeting dates on website still show early August. If adopted, this will require all operators of reach style forklifts who plan to move / install materials suspended below the forks to complete a written and practical test delivered by a third party certified training organization similar to crane operators.
  - 2.3. WA Lnl - Trench rescue and excavation- handout example DRAFT - progress slowed. The sample planning document is a good review for training Competent Persons as required by OSHA.
3. **New business**
  - 3.1. Updated Fed OSHA helmet / hard hat selection application bulletin - what head protection is REQUIRED by OSHA - Type C, vented hardhats, were listed as NOT approved for “electrical work”. This term needs to be defined as the vast majority of the work we do does not have exposure to energized systems. The committee to draft a request for interpretation letter to send to OR OSHA Construction Advisory Committee for clarity. The new style Class 2 helmets

retain considerably more heat than tradition hardhats and we should be able to select the best head protection based on exposures.

- 3.2. Heat / Smoke - OR & WA - Updated AQIs - handout - EPA adjusted the AQI values for PM 2.5 particle exposure to wildfire smoke. OR OSHA and WA Lnl likely to revise existing regs for employer requirements at certain thresholds. Until then, continue to respond to wildfire smoke as typical using trigger values per state. Note - Oregon trigger numbers differ from Washington.
- 3.3. Foreman sign off on fall clearances - the committee discussed the concerns for members signing off on proper fall clearances when using PFAS. Mostly concerned when working in areas where climbing in racks poses free fall distance limitations and likely to strike objects before fall protection equipment can stop the fall.
- 3.4. Switching equipment under load - concerns regarding using unconventional methods to switch MV equipment under load were reviewed. While a Chicken Switch was on site, it was not made available to the switching crew. The alternate method, while not typical, did not create additional exposure to arc flash potential. Confusion on MV and Incident Energy (IE) values a potential trigger for concern. Just because it is a MV system does not mean higher IE.

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

- 4.1. App reports tennis elbow - light duty restrictions
- 4.2. App rotator cuff tear - light duty restrictions
- 4.3. JW particles in eye - windy day - dust on floor kicked up
- 4.4. App neck strain repeatedly moving 3" conduit - LD restrictions
- 4.5. JW fractures arm when unloading PVC conduit was stuck on band and falls when conduit suddenly releases
- 4.6. JW hits head during fall through open floor tiles trying to sit on edge and missed - 2 days off work for recovery
- 4.7. App slips carrying all thread with Sammy and laceration to face
- 4.8. App drill torqued causes thumb injury - restrictions
- 4.9. App fall from ladder during wire pull - 4th step up - restrictions
- 4.10. MH company vehicle crash into tree - hospitalized
- 4.11. JW itching belly finger tip dislocated

- 4.12. JW shoulder strain loading wire spool on axle
  - 4.13. MH lip laceration when throwing conduit into dumpster - came back and hit face
  - 4.14. App fall from ladder during wire pull - no significant injury
  - 4.15. JW shoulder dislocated - personal injury but happened on job
  - 4.16. JW shocked on outlet with 2 circuits in box - only thought one and LOTO one
  - 4.17. App shoulder strain during wire pull
  - 4.18. App lower back strain during digging in trench - restrictions
  - 4.19. JW shocked on light fixture with shared neutral / multiple circuits
  - 4.20. App exposed to TMAH - immediately sent to emergency room - used shower at work and was checked out and released - very dangerous product - got on hand through a cut in his glove
  - 4.21. JW cut thumb installing LV cabling
  - 4.22. App metal shaving to eyes when drilling overhead - had safety glasses on
  - 4.23. GF installing PVC conduit for service had conduit under tension spring back and hit face - breaking tooth
  - 4.24. App sprained thumb when installing 3/4 EMT in steel stud wall. Installation required extra effort to push conduit and coupling broke. Release of energy caused thumb to jam into stud - restrictions
  - 4.25. Operator exposed to poison oak and it spread across a large area of their body - had to go to Dr. - severe case.
  - 4.26. JW wiring up HVAC unit. Routed wires inside and went to cut them and they were live. Small arc but no shock. Did not test first and ensure under proper LOTO.
  - 4.27. APP inserting bit in battery drill - hand caught in rotation of chuck - bent fingers back and caused sprain.
5. **Up Next** - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **July 18th, at 8:00 AM**. Moving to AM due to conflict in PM.