

NECA-IBEW Joint Safety Committee

July 18th, 2024



Meeting minutes

1. **Call to order** - The attendees gave introductions and approved the 6/20/24 minutes.
 - 1.1. Ilene Ferrell - Cochran, Josh Carter - IBEW 48, Steve Huson - MPE, Matthew Harris - OEG, Aaron Porter - J H Kelly, Troy Nichols - Stoner / Prime, Forrest Chapman - Squires, Amanda Davies - E C Co. and Barry Moreland - NIETC were in attendance.
2. **Old business**
 - 2.1. Fed OSHA helmet bulletin - what head protection is REQUIRED by OSHA - can electricians wear vented (Class C) hardhats when not performing EEW?
 - 2.1.1. OR OSHA CAC to address on 8/13/24 at next meeting
 - 2.2. Smoke - OR & WA - Updated AQIs - Oregon not revising rules to reflect new AQI trigger points - WA did revise. Note - while worker protection protocols are essentially the same for both OR & WA, they now are triggered at different AQI values from each other.
 - 2.3. PPE Fitment - Women specific harness - Larry Reynolds report - the committee discussed new style fall protection harnesses designed for women that have had good reviews from the field. Examples include Fall Tech FT and Guardian Xplorer styles.
3. **New business**
 - 3.1. Fed OSHA heat rule - proposed - Barry shared an update regarding Federal OSHA finally proposing a heat illness rule. If adopted, Oregon and Washington will have to evaluate their current rules to see if modifications will be necessary for compliance. Hopefully not. The committee also discussed worksite practices involving the use of wet globe bulb thermometers to more accurately

establish exposure to heat and humidity, especially inside unfinished buildings. Steve mentioned the OR OSHA simplified break schedule table was reported to not be applicable to construction due to not taking in consideration physical exertion / PPE use. Barry to check with OSHA.

- 3.2. Fed OSHA recordable criteria interpretation regarding MSD / ART / stretching exercises - the group reviewed a new OSHA compliance directive that directed OSHA inspectors to further investigate whether stretching, minor first aid and Active Release Techniques were not being listed on Form 300 recordable injuries and illnesses. This can further complicate the use of on-site medical treatment for cases that really should be addressed at a medical facility / doctor.
- 3.3. MH / ST / LT class content - the committee discussed class content for Support Tech workers who perform lighting maintenance. Their Working Agreement requires 1500 hours OJT and “safety training” before these workers can be used in lighting maintenance tasks but does not define what topics to be covered in such training.

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

- 4.1. App shocked on 277 lighting circuit - voltage tester “didn’t indicate hot”
- 4.2. Foreman shocked 277 lighting circuit on shared neutral - hand to hand - is ok
- 4.3. JW reports elbow strain - light duty restrictions
- 4.4. JW reports hernia - pre-existing condition?
- 4.5. App fall from ladder - missed last step - fractured wrist
- 4.6. JW falls from ships ladder - legs get caught causing them to fall face first - braced with arm = multiple pins to forearm.
- 4.7. Discussion about apprentices not assuming every circuit they work on could be energized and checking / working it as if it were hot
- 4.8. Popular safety slogan “Feet Feel Floor - Look Let Go” was brought up regarding situational awareness when descending ladders.
- 4.9. Use of DC to verify meter working properly when LOTO on AC systems OK? Barry to check with meter manufactures.
- 4.10. EC & M article “10 Questions Every Electrical Worker Should Know Answers To” was reviewed. Good article to share with your teams as refresher for EEW concepts.

5. **Up Next** - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th, **at 8:00 AM**. Moving to AM meetings until further notice.