

Physical Plant Safety and Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2, 2009
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Environmental Health and Safety Conference Room

Members present: Gordon Krueger, Sandy Sherbon (09), Jim Riggle (10), Dennis Hereid (10), Paula Lindberg (09), Kim Wrage (10), Dave Diercks (09)

Members absent: Mike Shelton (10), Lynn Pakala (10), Linda Noble (09), Jim McNamee (09),

Ex officio present: Wendel Reece-Safety Manager, Paul Meyermann-Management Group Representative, Dave Carter for Susie Baker-AFSCME Representative,

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. Follow up on previous safety concerns

Bridge between Towers and Price Lab

A concern was raised about the damage to the bridge between Towers and Price Lab that occurred during snow removal. Mike Zwanziger took note of the problem following last month's meeting and the bridge has since been repaired.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Physical Plant Incidents since last meeting

3 reported injuries since last meeting-0 lost days
Hurt shoulder while lifting scaffolding-1
Twisted lower back after bending over-1
Hurt back while vacuuming-1

2. Update of University Safety Activities – Wendel Reece

Earth Day

Wendel Reece announced to the committee that Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. There will be displays being presented by Grounds, Power Plant, Building Services, and Environmental Health and Safety.

University Health and Safety Committee

Wendel Reece discussed the meeting of the newly restructured University Health and Safety Committee.

Art Department

Wendel Reece discussed his upcoming meeting with a member of the Art Department about safety training for their faculty and students.

Environmental Health and Safety Website

Wendel Reece discussed the Environmental Health and Safety Website. He also informed the committee that a folder on Environmental Safety will be added to the site.

Forklift Licenses

Wendel Reece discussed the process of updating forklift licenses for Physical Plant personnel.

3. New Safety Concerns

Physical Plant

A concern was raised about missing concrete next to the emergency pump shutoff valves at the southeast corner of the Physical Plant. Gordon Krueger will investigate.

Bartlett Sidewalk

It was brought to the committee's attention that during recent construction, several sections of sidewalk had been damaged by the contractors. Paul Meyermann stated these sidewalks are to be replaced as part of the Parking Ramp Project that is currently underway.

4. Other Business

Bloodborne Pathogen / Asbestos Awareness training

On March 25, 119 Physical Plant and 4 College of Natural Sciences employees individuals received Bloodborne Pathogens training. On the same day, 114 Physical Plant Personnel received Asbestos Awareness and Lead Safety Training. Makeup training for those individuals who did not make the March training will be held during the month of April.

May PPSC safety walk through

The Physical plant safety committee will be conducting a safety walk through of physical plant spaces in Begeman Hall during next month's meeting

Safety Corner- Hearing Safety

The DVD, Hearing Safety was viewed and discussed by the committee. A Handout on Hearing safety was also disseminated and discussed.

C. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be May 7, 2009 at 9:45 AM in 209 Begeman Hall (Physics).

Hearing Safety Handout

As a reminder, noises at an eight hour time weighted average (TWA) of 85 dB (decibels) may damage your hearing. As the noise level is increased the amount of exposure time necessary for damage to occur to your hearing will decrease. Examples of sources that fall in that range are certain large manufacturing equipment or even small electric hand tools such as a sander.

Ways to determine that you may be exposed to too much noise:

- ◆ If it is necessary to speak or shout directly in someone's ear for them to hear you because of a nearby noise source.
- ◆ If your ears are ringing at the end of the work day.
- ◆ If speech or music sounds muffled when you leave work but sounds clear when you return to work you are being exposed to too much noise.

If you believe you are being exposed to too much noise contact the Environmental and Health Safety Office.

Safety suggestions for protecting your hearing:

- ◆ Wear proper hearing protectors such as disposable plugs, reusable plugs, headband style or earmuffs.
- ◆ Ensure you regularly clean, maintain and inspect any re-usable ear protectors. If they are defective dispose of them.
- ◆ Make sure the hearing protection fits. A rule of thumb is if you take your protection off then your voice should sound louder when the protection is off than when it is on.
- ◆ Tools should be properly maintained and lubricated so as to reduce or eliminate noise, rattles, or squeaks.
- ◆ Do not alter or interfere with noise reduction equipment on tools and machines.
- ◆ Wear hearing protection even if you are performing short tasks. Damage to hearing will accumulate over time if not protected.

Protect your hearing when off the job:

- ◆ Choose quiet appliances when making new purchases.
- ◆ Keep your personal stereo turned down in the car and at home.
- ◆ Do not use stereo headphones. This may lead to exposure of loud sounds which may damage your hearing over time.
- ◆ Use hearing protection for shooting, boating, snowmobiling, watching auto events such as races and truck rallies, using power tools and lawn equipment, or participating in or watching noisy recreational activities.
- ◆ Find activities that will reduce your exposure to noise such as hiking, fishing or walking.