

Facilities & Construction Safety Committee Meeting

Members

([P]) indicates member present at today's meeting)

Employee Represented:

[P] Karen Barnack, EHS Assistant Director for Occupational Health and Safety
[P] Aaron Britton, FPM Zone Maintenance
[P] Bryce Henry, CPC Construction Technology Coordinator
[P] Todd King, OIT Telecom Associate
[P] Mitchell Schwabel, FPM Housing Maintenance
[P] Doug Brown, FPM Systems
[] Gail Hamilton, FPM In-House Construction Manager
[P] Dustin Boomer, FPM Work Control Center

[] Jones Barton, FPM In-House Construction
[P] Mark Thomas, FPM Electrical
[] Andrew Beland, FPM Landscaping
[P] Kevin Reed, FPM Lockshop
[P] Taylor Yoshihata, Materials Management
[] Dirk Theisen, FPM Mechanical Systems Manager

Ad Hoc:

[P] Erica Hunsberger, EHS Specialist
[] Alyssa Thompson, EHS Student Worker
[P] Cary Morris, FPM Assistant Director for Operations and Maintenance

Meeting Call to Order

Date: 5/10/2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Google Meet (remote)

Roll Call and Review of Previous Minutes

- Minutes approved with no changes. Please review the minutes online, if you have not had a chance to, and let Karen know if any corrections are needed.
- Additional resources were researched and provided by Alyssa as links from the April meeting minutes. We covered a lot of information at last month's meeting, so please take the time to review them if you weren't in attendance.
- A reminder that meeting minutes and agendas are posted to the [Facilities and Construction Safety Committee Google share drive](#). Please contact Karen if you have any questions regarding how to access them.
- Welcome new member, Bryce Henry, replacing Quinn Soifer on the Safety Committee as the CPC representative.
- Dustin Boomer will now be representing the Work Control Center on the Safety Committee. Building Maintenance will be represented by Gail and Jones.

Safety Committee Member Role

- Obtain questions, concerns, or ideas from your respective crew to be brought up to the committee. After the meeting, share out the information from the safety committee meeting with your crew. It is very important to keep the lines of communication flowing.
- Participate in quarterly safety committee inspections.

Review of Previous Action Items

- All Committee Members: Review meeting minutes and share the information with your crews. Post them on your crew safety bulletin boards. Post safety information on bulletin boards, as topics are updated. This is an ongoing action item reminder.

- Pending/Tracking: Concerns about high wind events and branches falling in the Park Blocks. The Safety Committee requested IMT/Emergency Management consider issuing a campus alert warning for high wind events and for pedestrians to choose different routes and to use caution during these events.
- Pending/Tracking: CPSO and EHS to meet and discuss response protocols regarding small-scale oil spills.
- Karen (Pending/Tracking): Research any additional guidance for Landscaping staff for cleaning feces in landscaped areas. Possible [BES stormwater planter signage](#) installation in swales; awaiting a response from BES.
- Karen (Pending/Tracking): Follow up with vendors regarding other types of cut-resistant gloves and arrange for them to bring samples and meet with crews. Work with Stores on glove types to stock. EHS is developing a PPE guide for all PPE in Stores. The guide will be shared with the Safety Committee when the draft is completed.
- Karen: PSU policy or guidelines regarding contractors using our ladders and potential liability. Karen will review PSU policy/guidelines and construction documents and will discuss them with Don, Heather, Cary, and Quinn, as needed.
- Karen: Follow-up with Jeff Rook for information on the FAB electrical fire, safety, and lessons learned.
 - Cary is attending the meeting today to discuss the incident and lessons learned from the event debrief meetings.
- Karen: Follow-up on the near-miss electrical incident - impacted flexible conduit. To be discussed under Incidents and Injuries.
- Karen: Coordinate a Safety Committee replacement for Dustin for Building Maintenance and discuss the possibility of having a safety committee member for the Work Control Center
 - Done

Incidents / Injuries

- Cary Morris: FAB electrical fire
 - **Description:** At 01:30 am, a fire alarm went off for the B2 level switchgear room 3. Portland Fire Bureau was dispatched, FPM One Call was dispatched, CPSO and Cary arrived on site as well. Smoke was found in the switchgear room which is a high voltage room.
 - PFB could not enter until the power was shut off. PGE and PREM were dispatched.
 - PGE arrived and had to isolate power from the breaker switchgear and had to pull power from the street. Power was rerouted to the majority of the building. PFB left the site.
 - 30 minutes later, there was still smoke in the switchgear room and smoke in the parking garage. Contractor, EC electrician, saw flames in the switchgear still. PFB was called back out.
 - EC and PFB worked together. EC confirmed no power on the 12,500-volt switchgear, then PFB cut through and located and extinguished the fire.
 - **Cause:** The cause of the fire was found to be the batteries in the switchgear that operate the main breakers. The battery string failed which caused the fire. Normally, the breakers would have tripped, but in this incident, they did not because of a battery meltdown.
 - **Follow-up and Assessment:**
 - PSU worked with Eaton and EC to remove and dispose of the batteries and clean up the electrical gear. New batteries were installed.
 - The incident resulted in the building being without power for 4 days.
 - There was a delay in shutting down power to the switchgear, as the first PGE crew on site did not have the appropriate equipment.



- This was a low-level fire but it did result in a lot of smoke. Fans were set up at the end of the hallway, and the garage was put on 100% exhaust to remove smoke from the garage.
- One Call worked, according to established procedures. No lessons learned were noted for the One Call response.
- **Corrective Actions:** Quinn is currently working on a project for redundancy of systems. This would mitigate a critical power failure from impacting the building to this extent again.
- Erica: Strain/sprain while unloading gator
 - **Follow-up:** Waiting on follow-up with the employee
- Erica: Strain/sprain while lifting bins
 - **Follow-up:** Waiting on follow-up with the employee
- Karen: Student worker cut finger with pruning shears
 - **Description:** The employee cut their finger while using pruners. The pruners cut through their glove. This was a first aid-only injury and did not require medical treatment.
 - **Follow-up:** EHS followed up with the employee. The employee is left-handed and was using right-handed shears, holding them upside down while cutting.
 - **Corrective Action:** Left-handed shears have been purchased for the employee, as well as extras for staff, as needed. The new employee intake form has been updated to ask if the person is right or left-handed to ensure they receive the appropriate tools to work.
 - **Lessons Learned:** It is important to follow up on first aid injuries as well, especially since this had the potential to be a more serious injury. Also serves as a good reminder for other staff to ensure that staff has the appropriate equipment to work safely.
- Karen: Near miss electrical - impacted flexible conduit
 - **Description:** The employee was drilling a 4" hole through the wall of the Telecom closet into the hallway using a cordless drill. The hole saw (cordless drill) clipped a flexible conduit in the wall. The employee did not receive a shock and the damage was repaired by a PSU Electrician. This was a serious near-miss incident, involving 277 volts.
 - **Follow-up:** The designs did not designate where the sleeve was to be placed in the wall. The staff draws on the prints where to locate their work.
 - **Lessons Learned:** A pre-task plan should be completed prior to starting work. This plan should include the following:
 - Utilizing a stud finder to locate conduit or flex in the wall.
 - The department has purchased a new type of stud finder for this purpose.
 - During the work, it's imperative to visually look for light switches and outlets to make an educated understanding of where conduit may be located. Requesting an onsite electrician to come to review the area with technicians is another good practice.
 - Best practice would include, before drilling, taking a utility knife to cut a small hole to assess, as needed, and using a camera to view the space. Once assessed, drill partially into the wallboard. Remember to stop work and assess, before completing the hole.

Campus Safety Committee Update

- Erica: No updates from the committee currently. The Campus Safety Committee meeting is tomorrow, May 11.

May Mental Health Awareness Month

- Watch for materials coming soon from Angel for your safety bulletin board.

Safety Committee Inspection

- May 3 Inspection Findings - Karen, Gail, and Aaron participated in the inspections.
 - Ondine penthouse and 15th floor electrical room
 - Karen reported there was some damage to the asbestos door found in the electrical room. Tim Wright from EHS responded for cleanup.
 - PS1 and PS2
 - Aaron reported he didn't find anything dangerous during the safety inspections, but he noted some areas that are in the process of being cleaned up.

COVID-19 Exposure Prevention

- Concerns? Questions? Reminder to notify your supervisor of any concerns as well; can also email the coronavirusresponse@pdx.edu.
- Karen reported that there have been no updates or changes to PSU policies or guidelines at this time.
- The COVID dashboard is continuing to be updated. COVID cases have increased in April and May to date.
- Aaron: Update to face-covering signage. The signs are to be removed at SEC, as USGS no longer requires face coverings in their space.

Rounds / New Safety Concerns

- Mark: no new concerns
- Taylor: no new concerns
- Todd: Suggestion to add someone from the OIT AV group to the safety committee.
- Dustin:
 - HGCDC is closed today. Karen noted it is closed for deep cleaning due to a virus, not COVID.
 - There was a fire in the UCB east stairwell. The fire resulted in the Judaic Studies Department being evacuated. CPSO responded to the fire, and Michael McNerney is aware of the event.
 - Karen reported that Tayler Workman was checking with Portland Fire to see if some doors could be removed at exterior landings. This would hopefully make the stairwell seem less habitable.
- Kevin: no new concerns
- Aaron: no new concerns
- Mitchell: Today there was an incident where there was an attempted break-in to the key lockbox. Housing is continuing to review building access and security issues with CPSO.
- Bryce: no new concerns
- Doug: no new concerns
- Erica: no new concerns
- Karen: Oregon OSHA has issued their permanent Heat Illness Prevention and Wildfire Smoke Protection rules. EHS will work on updating the programs developed last year. The training will be updated, as needed, and provided to staff. Contractors with PSU will need to include the information in their safety plan submittals.

Announcements

- Welcome new member, Bryce Henry, replacing Quinn on the Safety Committee.
- Dustin Boomer will now be representing the Work Control Center on the Safety Committee. Building Maintenance will be represented by Gail and Jones.

Action Items and Safety Concerns

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- Karen: PSU policy or guidelines regarding contractors using our ladders and potential liability. Karen will review PSU policy/guidelines and construction documents and will discuss them with Don, Heather, Cary, and Quinn, as needed.
- Karen: Inquire to add an OIT AV department representative to the Safety Committee.
- Karen: Follow-up with Tayler Workman and the status of having doors removed in the UCB east stairwell.

Meeting Adjourned

Time: 11:00 am

Next Meeting

Date: June 14, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Google Meet (remote)