

Facility-Auxiliaries Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Link to Minutes: <http://uwm.edu/safety-health/occupational-safety/>

Date and Time of Meeting: May 26, 2021, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Engelmann Hall Room 105

Chairperson: Zack Steuerwald

Attendance: Eric Kozak, Steve Wilke, Fred Smith, Jacob Young, Christi Larson, PJ Egan.

Not Present: Brian Reimer, Aretha Johnson, Bob Martinez, Chris Peret, Jan MacDonald, John Yang,

Excused: Bill Ludwig, Giulio Leonardelli, James Fay

Announcements:

- Zack reported:
 - Bob Peck's retirement on May3rd
 - Shift in position to Occupational Safety and Training Manager
 - US&A contact in Bob's vacancy- safety-office@uwm.edu

Meeting Minutes Review

Review minutes from April 28, 2021 meeting. Approved- Steve motion, Eric second, All in favor.

Incident Review: April 14, 2021 – May 24, 2021 reported by Zack

- Facility Services employee injured back while moving 45 lb. boxes of ceiling tiles. Employee mentioned that he may not have been using proper lifting technique.
 - Bob Peck's recommendations for preventing a reoccurrence of this type of injury was to take time to warm up by doing some stretching exercises prior to attempting to lift boxes. Then use proper lifting techniques when lifting the boxes including bending at the knees and using your legs to execute the lift rather than your back.
- Environmental Services employee was injured when his vehicle was rear-ended at a high rate of speed.
 - No recommendations.
- Housing Facilities employee injured caught foot on a Unistrut near a piece of equipment and rolled ankle.
 - Supervisor recommended being more aware of surroundings and foot placement. Employee also purchased work boots with higher ankle support.
- Facility Services employee twisted knee while inside work van retrieving a tool.
 - Recommend making sure to lift feet when turning, twisting or navigating body in a different direction. Housekeeping in van so can navigate in van and lift feet.

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New Business:

- Safety Culture Impact
 - Zack reported on reductions in injury statistics and workers compensation (WC) insurance premium costs to UWM and expressed kudos to employees and supervisors for working safer, reducing injury severity, and in turn reducing WC costs. These result in better well-being for employees and greater productivity. See tables.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
# of Workers Compensation Claims	122	143	127	112	131	115	74
# of Lost Days	1737	239	154	664	69	333	29
# of Restricted Days	760	1546	477	323	695	238	226

Business Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
UW-Milwaukee	\$601,508	\$714,081	\$620,915	\$569,878	\$546,307	\$923,479
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2121
	\$1,021,243	\$936,936	\$818,861	\$595,431	\$413,379	\$397,589

- Zack asked committee what they felt they could do to continue to influence the safety culture.
 - Steve stated continuing to perform training and utilize the online options. Have student employees take the training.
 - Eric stated to continue to close out the old business items.

Old Business:

- Attic Access Safety Concerns for Garland, Pearse and Vogel Halls Update.
 - Rick Koehler agreed to revisit the quotation on installing a new attic access door at Vogel Hall. New estimate will not include removing the existing hatch door just placing plywood over it in the attic. Then if that door is ever needed to bring up larger objects such as a motor it is still an option for delivering equipment to the attic.
 - We are moving forward with this project. Awaiting revised quote to be sent to Tom Piccorelli for final approval to proceed with the project.
 - The project received final approval to proceed on February 11, 2020. The project has been added to the Facilities Services Scheduling Minutes as of February 13, 2020. The following work orders have been created for the project: Shop 0 Carpenter FS-102318; Shop 3 Facility Repair FS-102321; Shop 5 Paint FS-102330; Shop 6 Mechanical FS-102322; Shop 7 Eng. Spec. Contractors FS-102320.
 - Abatement is provided for in the quote. Electrical work not needed for the project as the switch is on the wall in the hallway that is turned on prior to ascending the ladder.
 - Due to issues surrounding location of the new hatch door it was determined that the project will not work. Erik Kozak will investigate some safety enhancements for accessing the attic area more safely.

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- Bob Peck and Eric Kozak looked at Vogel Hall attic access on April 16, 2021 and were unable to come up with changes to make accessing the attic safer. Issues remaining foot clearance on ladder not adequate where ladder contacts the entry to the attic (under 12" s), You must use your head and left forearm to push open the trap door to its full extent while at the same time trying to maintain 3 points of contact with the ladder. After opening the trap door, you must descend the ladder to then re-extend the ladder 3 feet above the floor of the attic to comply with OSHA standards. Ladder position at the top of the stairs to access the attic increases the hazard for the person entering the attic and anyone who may be using the stairs at that time should a fall occur.
- **Eric recommended that an outside contractor provide input on what can be done to address the access issue.**
- Fall Protection Update
 - Toured Great Lakes Research Facility on April 2, 2021 to obtain a quote for fall protection from Infinity Fall Protection for railings and a ramp extending the work area near steam controls on mezzanine level. Awaiting quotation.
 - New ladder needed for safely accessing room B30 (mechanical room) in Norris Health Center. Eric Kozak is following up on this issue. **Eric updated that this is a crawl space and is being evaluated. A work order was submitted.**
 - Portable Safety Rails use. **Zack updated that training/demo of the rails was performed by Bob Peck and Goran Stanojevic. The rails have been utilized and favorable feedback was received**
- Noise and Hearing Conservation
 - Contact James Fay (jamesfay@uwm.edu; (414) 313-9711) when you have job tasks that last for >4 hours involving loud noise so an exposure assessment can be performed. If the exposure assessment shows that noise is 85 dBA (calculated as an 8-hr time-weighted average) or higher then you will be enrolled in the UWM Hearing Conservation Program. An exposure assessment is needed to justify enrollment into the program.
 - Use a free Sound Level Meter App for your Phone to familiarize yourself with noisy job tasks/areas. To prevent hearing loss, wear hearing protection if readings are >80 dBA. For a more accurate exposure assessment that can be used to justify enrollment into the UWM Hearing Conservation Program, contact James Fay (jamesfay@uwm.edu; (414) 313-9711).
 - For iPhones: Download this free [iOS Sound Level Meter App](#) from NIOSH
 - For Android: Download this free [Android Sound Level Meter App](#)
 - Annual audiograms for Heat Plant and Grounds Staff TODAY.
 - **Zack updated that James was still in need performing monitoring for more data on noise as there are positions such as Carpenters where they may be close to the noise threshold.**

Training:

- Safety Training – Shops in May 2021 –
 - Confined Space Training course in the **SafeColleges Training Program**.
- Safety Training - Shops in June 2021 –

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- Heat Illness Prevention Training course in the **SafeColleges Training Program**.

Other Business Follow-up:

- Committee Go Around- No additional business

Next Meeting: June 23, 2021 9:30am – 10:30am (Location TBD- Looking for a Teams-capable room)