

MINUTES
General Employee Injury Review Board
Thursday, May 23rd, 2013
City Council Conference Room
Wayne Gilley City Hall
9:30 am

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vu at 9:30 am.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Ha Vu, Chairperson
Candy Brown, Safety & Risk Manager
Don Schaefer, Safety Rep

Members Absent: Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works Safety Officer

Others Present: James Bearbow, Safety Rep
Chew Allen, Safety Rep
Darrin Hall, Safety Rep
Tiffani Burk – HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of March 28th, 2013

Motion to approve minutes by Schaefer with a second by Brown.

AYES: All NAYS: None Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Jayson Powell-SWC (3/6/13)

Mr. Powell was present. Mr. Powell said a spot on his hand started hurting after lifting carts one day. He went to the doctor to make sure it wasn't something hurt bad. The doctor said to take ibuprofen. They were taking the carts out of the stacks. When it happened, it actually burnt up his arm.

Motion was made by Whisenhunt with second by Schaefer to rule this as Non- Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. Shane Jensen-SWC (4/18/13)

Mr. Jensen was not present. Jayson Powell was present.

Mr. Jensen hit a parked car at 5390 NW Columbia. He blacked out due to medication and woke up after he hit the car. He hurt his back, head and left wrist.

Motion was made by Whisenhunt with second by Brown to rule this as Chargeable but wave the points because the incident is already in the VARB process. zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Robert Williams-Sewer Construction (4/15/13)

Mr. Williams was present. Mr. Williams said he was getting on the trackhoe and felt a burning sensation in the back of his leg. He thought it was a pulled muscle. It does not hurt anymore. The doctor said he had a sprained Achilles. It was a 50 trackhoe. He said you grab a hold of the handle and step up on the tracks and get in the cab. It is something he does every day. He told the supervisor and then the next day it blew up and he couldn't even put his boot on. He worked the rest of the day that he hurt it and tried to work the next day. They told him he needed to file a report. On a normal day he probably gets up and down from the trackhoe around 20 or 30 times. He said he did not slip; he just stepped up and thought it was a muscle strain. It was a warm day. He didn't think it was anything bad until the next day.

Motion was made by Whisenhunt with second by Schaefer to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

C. Robin Dale-Streets (3/28/13)

Mr. Dale was not present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was present.

On Thursday 3/28/13 Mr. Dale was using a pin puller and it slipped off of the pin and he fell backwards and hit his head on the road. He went to the emergency room on Monday 4/1/13 and was told he had a concussion. Mr. Bearbow said that Mr. Dale did not mention that he was wearing a hard hat. Mr. Dale is on the cleanup crew. He was stripping the forms.

Motion was made by Bearbow with second by Schaefer to rule this as Preventable with one (1) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

Rusty said he will review the hard hat policy with the Director.

D. Robert Yarbrough-Streets (4/8/13)

Mr. Yarbrough was present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was also present.

Mr. Yarbrough said he was picking up a ramp on the trailer and the ramp got stuck on the asphalt and he pulled a muscle in his back. His back is fine now. He just got finished loading the equipment onto the trailer. He asked if this is normally a 1 man job or a 2 man job. Mr. Yarbrough said it is normally a 2 man job but he does not always have an extra person there to help. He said he didn't have someone there to help him that day. He said there was another person there but he was down the road doing

something else. Rusty asked him if he could have contacted the other person to come help him. Mr. Yarbrough said yes he could have. Don asked him if he has a radio in his truck. He said yes he does. It was a steel wheel roller. He said he loaded the roller onto the trailer himself with no help. Donald Cox was the other person anywhere close, everyone else had already left. The ramp weighs anywhere from 60 to 70 pounds. He said it is not always possible to get someone to help you lift the ramps because he is normally the last one to leave the job. Everyone normally leaves him there. He said there is a policy regarding 2 men lifting the ramps but it is not always done. He said he always gets stuck by himself. Ha asked how far Donald was from him, he said about a block away. Donald had his own truck and had a radio in it but he was outside of his truck cleaning up the work area. Candy asked was he visible to you. Mr. Yarbrough said yes he could see him. Rusty asked could you have walked down to him and asked him to help you. Mr. Yarbrough said yes he could have. He said he lifted correctly and used his legs. Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

E. Bradley Ash-Streets (4/23/13)

Mr. Ash was present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was also present.

Mr. Ash said he was loading rebar onto the truck on the morning of the 23rd. His right hand got smashed in between the rebar that was already on the truck and what was in his hand. There was a headache rack right there too. He said it was about 6 sticks of rebar. He said his partner had to come help him get the rebar off of his hand in order to get his hand out. He was wearing gloves. He showed the pictures and it helped explain how he was loading them. These were 20' sticks. His hand is still swelled up. His doctor is going to send him to an orthopedic hand doctor. He is not back at work. He said it feels like he has needles and pins sticking in it. It burns if he tries to make a fist. He says he wants to go back to work but the doctor won't let him, he doesn't want any stress on it. He is left handed. Ha asked how often do they load this rebar? He said normally two or three times a day. It is on an everyday basis. It was ½" rebar. They always load them with 2 people, one person on one end and one person on the other end. They always load them at about 5 or 6 at a time because they have to load about 60 or 70 sticks. He said maybe he could have loaded 2 or 3 instead of 6. He said he has been doing this with Kenneth for about 9 months and this is the way that they have always done it. He thinks it was a freak accident. Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bearbow to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

The Board recommends that a procedure be made on how to load rebar. Rusty said he will make a memo.

F. Terry Justus-Streets (5/1/13)

Mr. Justus was not present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was present.

Mr. Bearbow said they were backfilling a jobsite. Mr. Justus was shoveling dirt from the back of a 1 ton truck to the ground. He felt a pop in his lower back and the pain went down his leg. The doctor said he strained his back. He is back to work now. He did miss a few days and was on light duty for a few days. Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bearbow to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

G. Janna Townsend-WWC (4/4/13)

Mrs. Townsend was not present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was present.

Mr. Allen said Mrs. Townsend hit her hand on the railing of the trailer. She was assisting Scott Johnston unchain an easement rodder off the trailer. The chain was wedged between the boards on the trailer. She was trying to get the chain loose when her hand slipped and hit the metal frame of the trailer. There were pictures of the trailer and chains.

Motion was made by Brown with second by Vu to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed.

AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

H. Janna Townsend-WWC (4/22/13)

Mrs. Townsend was not present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was present.

Mr. Allen said Mrs. Townsend was assisting our lift station mechanic when he goes out to check the lift stations. They were at 6th and Bellmont. She was putting a fiberglass 6' step ladder back into a ¾ ton truck and hurt her shoulder. She was lifting it over the side of the truck. Rusty asked if the tailgate works on the truck. Mr. Allen said sometimes it sticks but it does work. Ha asked how heavy is this ladder? Rusty said 30 or 40 lbs.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Allen to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: Schaefer, Allen NAYS: Vu, Brown, Motion carried.

I. Matthew Camping-WWC (4/26/13)

Mr. Camping was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Mr. Camping showed pictures of the truck and trailer that he was operating. He said there were trench boxes that were in the back and they had the pipe sticking inside the trench box. The operator and laborer took the pipe and were bringing it to the hole. He proceeded to grab the other piece of 8" PVC; he was standing on the trailer. He said he knew at the end of the trailer, the wood stops and it turns into a dovetail loading ramp for the tractor. As he pulled the pipe out, he stopped to set the pipe down and get off the trailer. As he turned sideways, his foot lined up the same direction as the bars on the back ramp. His foot went straight threw and the bars went up to about mid thigh. His hard hat fell off. He thought his leg was going to break off. The principal came to help him pull his leg out of the bars. The metal bars hurt his leg from just below his knee to about mid thigh. Mr. Camping said that Friday 4/26, his principal was there and at the end of the day the principal told Ray Armstrong that Matt had hurt himself. The principal said that Matt thought it might be just bruised. On Monday when he knew he could not work, he called in and Ray told him to get a doctor's note. He went to his family physician. The doctor sent him for x rays. He said then he officially told Ray on Wednesday 5/1. And that is went they filled out the paperwork. The doctor said he has deep contusions in his thigh and contusions in the knee and bruising in the bone. There are not any stress fractures or breaks. He said he pushed it as far as you can without a fracture. The bone is deeply bruised. If he doesn't allow it to heal then he could hurt it worse so the doctor has kept him on light duty.

Motion was made by Allen with second by Schaefer to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

J. Chris Alford-WWC (5/2/13)

Mr. Alford was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Mr. Alford said this happened May 2nd at about 8:00 in the morning. He runs a flush truck and he was putting a new hose on it. There is 600 feet of hose that goes onto the reel. They took the old hose off. He put new Teflon on it. He had an 18" pipe wrench and was tightening it and a 12" wrench and tightening it up. During the course of tightening it, he got it where he wanted it to be and he went to let go of the wrench. Something got a hold of the hydraulic lever and the reel started going around. It caught his hand in between the steel reel and the pipe wrench. The doctor said it came as close as it could to amputating his middle finger. They had to redo it and put pins in it. He yelled for someone to turn the truck off. He fell behind the reel and his head hit the bumper. It put about a 4" cut on his head. He doesn't know if he blacked out or if it knocked him out. When he came to, all he could see was the underneath of the reel. When they got the truck off, he fell down in between the frame of the truck and the steel reel. It broke 3 ribs underneath the shoulder. He said once it started smashing his hand, he was not sure what all was going on. He said he has 27 ½ years on with the city. He puts a new hose reel on at least a couple of times per year if not more. Rusty asked why was the truck still was running. He said he has to have the truck running to engage the hose onto the reel. Rusty said once to get to a certain point then you don't need the truck running. He said that is the way they do it. Candy asked him if he has had lock out, tag out classes. He said he has tag out class for electrical stuff but nothing pertaining to this. He said they do this quite often. This is the first time anything like this has happened. He said this truck is made different than the rest of the others. To operate this you have to hit 5 different buttons. And then put the truck in gear for the PTO to work. The other trucks have 1 button to operate everything. On this truck you can kill the truck and it will shut the whole system down. This truck is different and it is made out of 4 different trucks. They have had a lot of issues with this truck. Don asked if it is normal policy to have this truck running and to have the hydraulic system online while you are working on this hose connection. Mr. Alford said yes. He said this is the way he was trained. This is what he has always done. He said he is a pretty big guy and he feels like a little man might not have made it. He doesn't want anyone to go through what he has gone through.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

K. Terry Emerson-WWC (5/9/13)

Mr. Emerson was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Mr. Emerson said we had a sewer call at 1717 Liberty. They used the rod truck first. They pushed over 80 rods and it didn't affect it so they went and got the flush truck 7425. It was raining and the easement was wet. The easement was real narrow and it was dark at night. They had to pull like 200' of hose to the manhole. They did it the first time and thought they had cleared it. They reeled the hose back up and they checked it and it was still holding. So they had to go back and pull it again. It was about 11:00 and they were pulling 200' of hose. That time he got a muscle cramp in his thigh. He thought it was a cramp so he kept going. It was sore but he didn't say anything about it. The next day it hurt a little more but he kept working. It is still sore but it doesn't hurt. He is back to work now.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

L. Stephen Sellman-Neighborhood Services (4/18/13)

Mr. Sellman was present. Safety Rep Darrin Hall was also present.

Mr. Sellman said he was doing a re-inspection of a code violation on 409 Woodland Dr. He took pictures of the tall grass. He pulled his car into the driveway and went to walk around through the front yard to the side. He was going to take pictures of the back yard. He was is knee high grass still in the front yard and stepped in a hole. He fell down to his knee. He sprained his knee. They had already been to this house before. This was a re-inspection. Ha asked if there was a sidewalk. Mr. Sellman said there were no sidewalks.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Hall to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: Vu, Schaefer, Hall NAYS: Brown, Motion carried.

5. Consider any other injuries reported:

None

6. Communication/Discussion:

7. Adjournment:

Motion by Schaefer with second by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 pm.