

**SUNFLOWER SAFETY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
March 25, 2014



Meeting was called to order by Jim Barta, President at roughly 1:00 pm. Thirteen members were present. Individual introductions were made to the group.

The Secretary's report was reviewed and discussion followed.

Treasurer's report was given via e-mail \$1,295.24.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Sunflower Safety Council banner was not located. Jim Barta contacted Ken Dobrinski, the banner is not at his training facility. Jim is planning to look in to the cost of making a new banner.

**Schedule for upcoming meetings:**

- May 20<sup>th</sup> – Cornejo Materials (Austin)
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – “Possibly” Monarch Cement Company
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – Fundraiser (KSMS MERD Exercise)
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Alsop (Dane) and KAPA (Amanda)

Holmes Association web site, current information for the Sunflower Safety Council is still pending. Jim Barta is planning to see if he can resolve this issue.

The first attempt to record the meeting for upload to web site was a bust. The camera was MIA. The May meeting will be recorded. I did provide a more detailed summary of the meeting since I dropped the ball on the camera.

## NEW BUSINESS

An electrical safety discussion was prompted due to a recent issue encountered at Independent Salt Company. A picture of the issue is attached below. The discussion lasted roughly 40 minutes with input from the entire group, topics covered are below as well.



- Preventative electrical maintenance utilizing a (MEGGER) Megohmmeter & heat gun. A basic MEGGER runs roughly \$700, a heat gun can run several thousand. An alternative to the heat gun is to contract out an annual inspection.
- Steve Hatfield brought up annual ground resistance testing. The type of meter used will determine whether a diagram of your ground bed is required to be on file. Colored tape is being utilized at many facilities to identify power cords and hand tools that have been ground tested.
- Arc Flash PPES, electrical evaluation for Arc Flash, and information for electrical safety training including Arc Flash was provided By Wally Pitney. Wally attended a training session put on by Brad Palensky, he highly recommended it for all. Wally can provide contact information if you are interested. Steve Hoskinson is also certified and can provide electrical safety training as well.
- Annual testing of electrical gloves, hot sticks, and rescue hook. Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory located in Great Bend Kansas offers testing services. Gloves have to be tested every six months when in use. Gloves can go up to one year max if not in use for six months prior to being placed in service. Hot sticks & rescue hooks are one year.
- Issues with having multiple voltage PPE requirements. Some have went to highest possible voltage PPE as a safeguard to cover all.
- Theft of Cornejo electrical cable and measures taken to eliminate it happening again. They have replaced the electrical cable with a product that has an additional wire, when cut sets off an alarm. Steve Hatfield said another theft was attempted and it scared the criminals away.

## **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**

Steve Hatfield shared information and pictures of a recent loader incident that took place within his operation. The incident was caused by brake failure, the operator tried to exit the cab as the loader went down a slope. The operator luckily received only a minor injuries. Roundtable discussion was opened about equipment pre-shift inspection and reporting processes. Passing the information to the supervisor & mechanics and making sure the repairs come full circle can be an issue. There were concerns voiced about operators utilizing equipment that is in need of minor repairs due to production demands and the “need to get the job done factor”. Wally Pitney referred to the MSHA standard (9100 Traffic Safety) we talked about speed for conditions and size of berms.

The members discussed taking a more active role in the 2015 Spring Thaw as a sponsor. Ken Dobrinski took charge of the 2014 Spring Thaw. It was a push for him due to the lack of trainers at his facility and there work load. He did a great job pulling things together for 2014, a lot of good information came from the Spring Thaw. Attendance was low again this year, information on the Spring Thaw needs help being distributed. Wally mentioned funding and manpower issues have taken MSHA out of the equation for the most part. Input & ideas on promoting the 2015 Spring Thaw will be discussed during future meetings.

Elliot Oliver discussed how overtime pay rates are not factored into Work Comp Insurance rates. He said that this is sometimes overlooked by companies and it would be a good idea to double check. During the discussion it was questioned why the overtime was not a factor as far as potential injuries are concerned. Many times the longer hours of work will fatigue and employee and he will not be at 100%.

John Mann mentioned root cause analysis he is performing at one of his facilities. He is interviewing the employees and analyzing the information he is gathering. John will then determine the root cause of the accidents. This information will be utilized at all facilities to prevent accidents. John mentioned being in a hurry is a factor.

## **TODAY'S SAFETY TOPIC**

Jim Barta covered current MSHA fatal grams, Part 50 accident reporting “return to work”, accident prevention alerts, and Inspection advisory information distributed by the Yoke Industrial Corporation. Lanyards hooks were produced with un-crimped rivets. Please visit the following link for more information. <http://www.yoke.net/english/index.asp>

Inspection requirements for fall protection were discussed. John Mann mentioned they were utilizing “Fall Tech”. The fall tech equipment is not manufactured with an inspection tag and expiration is determined by condition not “x” amount of years. Monthly inspection can be documented on another form and kept on file for MSHA inspection. Fall protection must be inspected prior to each use, some companies are inspecting before and after each use.

## **TODAY'S SAFETY TOPIC CONTINUED**

Tom O'Donnell covered Work Comp Insurance for Industry and the factors surrounding cost and changes in the "MOD". Smaller companies are more applicable to significant price increases due to accidents and fluctuation in the industry average. Other factors such as drug or alcohol use are grounds for a claim being denied. Miss use and abuse of prescription drugs have become a problem in today's work force. Work Comp claims can be made if you have an employee being compensated for traveling to and from work. Tom stressed that management has to take an active part in safety and drive the program throughout the company. Tom covered statistics form 2012 injuries. The injuries were broken into to 3 quadrants according to an individual's body. The upper quadrant accounted for 20% of injuries. The middle and lower quadrant accounted for the other 80% of injuries, 40% each. Short cuts are contributing factors to the majority of work related accidents. Discussion was also opened up about accidents occurring when employee's rush to complete a task due to time lines. It was brought up that a push to complete tasks is not always company driven it can be driven by the employee themself or a customer. Tom mentioned housekeeping citations from MSHA had increased during 2013 and are still a focus as Sidney Garay mentioned in the January meeting. Tom had a copy of MSHA's training material for ladder safety, it is a great training tool. This information is available on MSHA's web site.

### **Other old Business**

It appears that government funding of the State Grants program for 2014 will return. Steve thought that was correct but, 2015 funding is questionable.

It was confirmed Dustin Crelly had been promoted from acting ADM to the ADM position.

Meeting was adjourned at roughly 3:00 pm.