

## CWA District 3 Occupational Safety and Health Conference Call

Thursday, June 6, 2019

### Participant Reports:

Local 3204 reported there are issues with the single person bore. There was discussion around the formal training being delivered by the Company. Most people who have observed the training have given positive reports, but there may be some areas where there are still issues. Per the TOSHA settlement agreement, once an employee has completed the formal training they are considered to be a "Competent Person" and should be able to determine if a job requires a helper. If an employee asks for help to perform a bore because the job is unsafe, the Company is to provide a helper.

Local 3104 reported that Wire Techs are being instructed to use ground rods to bore sidewalks. There was discussion around different "Call before you dig" laws in different States and Company best practices regarding ground rod usage. It is imperative to comply with State law and it is incumbent upon the Company to train employees and demonstrate any work operations, particularly how to safely perform a work operation. Side walk bores are treated differently in different areas, as Local 3905 pointed out stating they are advised to use a riser conduit for sidewalk bores.

Local 3905 reported an electrical hazard issue where the satellite dish, splitter, cable, pole and panel all tested positive for foreign voltage and a manager told the technician to advise the customer and leave the job. The manager's instructions were wrong and put public safety at risk. This issue has been escalated to upper management.

Locals 3102, 3403 and 3605 reported an issue with GPS units being defective and technicians not being allowed to replace them with a windshield or dash mount. The managers are instructing technicians to use their COU device and lock it up, using audio only. Also, managers are instructing technicians to NOT charge equipment in the cab of the vehicles, even when unoccupied. This issue is being referred to the District 3 Safety Committee but should also be presented at the State Local Governance Partnership quarterly meetings. A simple fix would be to have 12 volt charging receptacles installed in the non-passenger compartment of the Company vehicles.

District 3 Occupational Safety and Health Committee;

Isa Shabazz reported the Committee will be in recess during bargaining, as both the Company and CWA Chairs are on the Bargaining Committee, and will resume meetings once a new contract is ratified.

CWA/USW Occupational Safety and Health Training:

Susan Moss provided an overview of the no-cost training available to all Locals in District 3. Locals wishing to schedule a training session should contact Susan at <mailto:smoss@cwa3204.org>

CWA/USW Health, Safety and Environment Conference:

Registration is now open for this conference and the details can be found here: <https://district3.cwa-union.org/news/search/health-and-safety>

Next Conference Call Date/Time:

The next CWA District 3 Occupational Safety & Health conference call will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019 from 1:00 PM Eastern – 3:00 PM Eastern.