

CWA District 3 Occupational Safety and Health Conference Call

Wednesday, June 23, 2023

District 3 CWA/BST Joint OSH Committee:

Isa Shabazz, CWA Staff Representative and Co-chair of the Committee advised that the last meeting had to be rescheduled due to power outages from storms. He asked for clarification about one item that was referred to the Committee regarding whether MV backup cameras could be modified to be in the always-on mode. Scott Bumgarner, 3608 Local President advised that the issue has been addressed with safety reps from different departments. Also, the backup cameras on older bucket trucks are on the rear view mirrors and are so small it is difficult to see the video, particularly with sunlight reflections. The Company has stated they would look into modifying or retrofitting with larger monitors.

The availability of DC FVDs was also added to the agenda for the next D3 Committee meeting. [This item has been referred to the D3/BST Joint OSH Committee]

Participant Reports:

Local 3804 reported that janitorial services for Company buildings have been reduced to monthly scheduling and asked if other areas have the same issue. This results in issues such as trash cans not being emptied, restroom cleanliness, no toilet tissue, etc. Several Locals reported the same issues. [The BST Network Services Board has been made aware of complaints across the District, including some areas where technicians have been told to stop using some Company facilities for lunch and restroom breaks. The Company responded that that is not a mandate being implemented by their leadership, but they do ask that employees take their trash out when they exit a Company building. They have had discussion with GRE about cleaning frequencies aligning with the amount of traffic through Central Offices, and as a result GRE is in the process of conducting occupancy assessments to meet maintenance needs across the region. The understanding is GRE will be reverting to a schedule soon similar to the same schedules used pre-COVID.]

Local 3902 reported that fire doors in one of their centers were not working. Claude Perry said that fire doors should automatically close in the event of a fire and advised other Locals to check their fire codes which are based on state laws, municipal or local ordinances. He also reported that elevator inspections should be checked to be sure they are not out of date, and if they are it should be reported to the proper authorities for your state.

Local 3804 reported OP78 violations in buildings, specifically lights around entry doors are not working. The Local has reported the issue to att.corrigo.com but no corrective action has been taken. [It was requested that the Local send more information to the District including communications and locations]. Local 3902 reported that the 800 number that was previously used to report building issues is no longer a working number.

Local 3207 reported there was no water at one remote Central Office and that it had been disconnected for non-payment.

Local 3108 reported multiple issues with the Little Giant extension ladders and ladder racks. The Local reports that management is demanding that ladders be mounted fly-side down, but some won't latch properly (on certain racks) when doing so and they are requiring the use of a strap to secure the ladder to the rack. Primarily the issue is with Transits, but others may also have problems as it depends on which model of rack is on the truck. Also, some of the ladder rack handles protrude far enough that they get caught on objects (trees, goalposts, etc.) and cause a safety hazard. [This item has been referred to the D3/BST Joint OSH Committee]

Local 3140 reported an issue with American Airlines. The Company is now requiring agents to close the aircraft doors prior to departures. This task used to be the flight crew's responsibility. Even though the Company has provided training via a video, the doors are very heavy and people are getting hurt. [This item has been referred to Jar'la Evans, CWA Staff Representative]

Local 3608 asked if anyone got any air quality alert communications from the Company regarding the Canadian wildfires. No one on the call received any communications from the Company. Local 3611 said one report indicated the air quality in Central North Carolina as a result of the wildfires was the equivalent of smoking half of a cigarette, and it was the

equivalent of smoking 11 cigarettes in New York. [Unfortunately, Federal OSHA only “urges employers to have a plan to protect outdoor workers from hazards associated with poor air quality” (<https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/national/06092023>) but employers have a general duty to provide a work environment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm (Section 5a1).]

Local 3204 reported that some of their members who use a wheelchair and work in a call center complained the restrooms are not accessible. [Please see the Job Accommodation Network website for more information on this topic] <https://askjan.org/articles/Physical-Accessibility-in-the-Workplace.cfm>

Local 3204 reported that there was recently an active shooter incident and one of their large call centers was in the lockdown zone. The Company advised the Local President they have an active shooter plan, but they weren’t able to produce it. Local 3108 reported they had an active shooter incident and the departments didn’t coordinate a response to share with employees. Local 3406 reported they had a training provided by Asset Protection, but it took place before the COVID-19 pandemic. [At the Network Services Board, the Company said they currently have a PLE course for active shooter response but will look at other methods of delivery]

Local 3204 reported that Mobility technicians are not provided with water coolers, water or ice. [This item has been referred to Kelvin Banks, Administrative Director to the VP who supports the Mobility collective bargaining agreements. Kelvin later confirmed that the problem had been resolved.]

Next Call:

The next District 3 Occupational Safety and Health conference call will be Wednesday, August 23, 2023 from 1pm EDT – 3 pm EDT.

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Access Code: 1016244#