

UW Facilities Safety Team Meeting Minutes
Hybrid: In-Person & ZOOM

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Minutes: Goldie Johnson

Attendees: Chris Pennington, Ron Fouty, Clayton Brainerd, Grant Backman, Thomas Bain, Ryan Balkcom, Jason Beatty, Dave Bomengen, Olynthia Chancy, Kellie Dean, Don Deleva, Greg Dillingham, Anne Donegan, Alfonso Escobar, Chris Forbes, Matthew Gay, Joe Grojean, Katherine Huebl, Nicholas Jenkins, Goldie Johnson, Rezene Mebrahtu, Joe Lo, Michael Nguyen, Joe Schindler, Matt Phelps, Jon Simmons, Shannon St. Clair, Todd Tracer, Nate Whittaker, Jeff Wilcox, Han Yoo, Officer Anthony Stewart (UWPD), Chris P reported for EH&S

Absentees: Tracey Mosier, Roman Ariri, Kurt Cooper, Michael Crane, Daniel Eden, Gopal Narayanan, Mark Pekarek,

Meeting Moderator: Chris Pennington

SAFETY MOMENT: Several people shared pedestrian and driver safety incidents where either they were the driver or the pedestrian. People reported incidents where pedestrians were not paying attention and stepped into traffic unexpectedly, and incidents where drivers were not paying attention to pedestrians. One person shared an incident where a vehicle was parked illegally in a turn lane near the S1 parking area, which obscured visibility of the crosswalk, so that person took extra precaution (waited for a vehicle passing by) since they knew the vehicle couldn't see them because the car was blocking their visibility. It is always a good reminder to be mindful as both driver and pedestrian and expect the unexpected.

Introductions: Don Deleva, BSD Area C; Jeff Wilcox, Shop 50; Jon Simmons, BSD Area WW

Announcements: No new announcements

Review of February Minutes *(including Action Items from the previous meeting):*

1. *Chris will follow up on question about UWPD not being allowed to give tickets for trespassing.*

UWPD Report: The group ended up having a general discussion about safety concerns across campus. People talked about continuing issues and a feeling of dismissiveness when they call UWPD to report trespassers in the building and other safety concerns. It was shared that one of our staff was chased by a trespasser. Another person shared that when they contacted UWPD she was told by the person on the phone that the priority was to respond to student concerns, saying that they're there for students.

Several people commented that they feel UWPD is not being responsive enough. Some suggestions were to have UWPD sweep buildings before shifts start, or to explore the possibility that departments and/or

UWPD hire private security patrols for buildings. It was also suggested that personal safety and/or self-defense training be provided for UWF staff.

Officer Stewart joined the meeting late so was unable to respond to some of this discussion directly, but he did hear some concerns and said that when there are concerns about UWPD response to please continue to send to him and he will work to address them. He also specifically asked to receive additional information about the call where staff was told by UWPD that they were 'there for students.' This item will be added as an action item for Chris and Katherine.

Officer Stewart also shared that UWPD has been limited in what they can do and cite people for by various agencies/groups, including King County Council.

Chris reminded the group to continue to submit OARS reports for safety incidents. Tracking does help with problem solving. Chris also continues to share concerns with the UWF Group 2 Health & Safety Committee.

It was also suggested that meeting attendees communicate with their shops that issues and concerns are not unique to UWF. We're not alone. It's happening everywhere, and people are working at multiple levels across campus to try to find solutions.

Chris also reminded the group that concerns can also be shared with the UW Campus Community Safety department via an online form at <https://www.washington.edu/safety/contact-us/>

UWF Safety Focus 2024 Initiative – Chris Pennington

Several teams shared that their teams completed their Q1 initiatives. An email will be coming soon with details about the Q2 Safety Focus, along with links to resources and ideas.

EH&S Report – Chris shared the EH&S report below.

1. Jenna Gravely has been hired as the Assistant Director for Planning and Administration in EH&S. Jenna has been serving as the Interim AD since July 2023 and previously served as the EH&S Business Analyst.
2. Kristi Kilgore has been hired as the BSL-3 and Select Agent Biosafety Officer in ROS backfilling the position previously held by Tony Han.
3. Recruiting:
 - a. Research & Occupational Safety is recruiting a Laboratory Program Safety Manager.
 - b. Radiation Safety is recruiting a Health Physicist.
4. L&I opened two investigations:
 - a. An employee request for more information about a red dust incident in the HSB B-Wing to L&I started an investigation into the incident and the communications to occupants.
 - b. A UW Medicine Primary Clinic in Woodinville had an investigation opened due to a smell entering the clinic from a bakery/restaurant in the same building complex.
5. L&I closed out two investigations:
 - a. Opened at Harbor View Medical Center related to diesel exhaust odors in surgical room and was resolved with no violations.

- b. Opened with UWF related to an injury from a sheet metal cut that required inpatient hospitalization. Two serious violations were identified related to walking-working surfaces and safely storing items. EH&S is waiting to receive the citation of notice from L&I.
6. EP developed a cleanup protocol for vehicle fuel/liquid spills in coordination with OSH, ICA, and UW Facilities Seattle, Bothell, and Tacoma. Mark Volkert and John Wallace helped ICA order spill kits and provided ICA Grounds staff with training. A response protocol was identified as a need and addressed by EP after a staff-on-call request for assistance with a vehicle spill in E1 parking lot before the start of a Husky Football game. Chris will ask John Wallace about what's different about the new spill kits and protocol.
7. The University will end its permit with the WA Dept of Ecology to withdraw water from Lake Washington for a non-contact chiller water at the UWMC-Montlake. This water was used to help cool the facility, with only heat as a "pollutant". The first permit was issued in June 1987, and has provided emergency cooling capacity since then. New environmental rules greatly restrict future impacts to surface water, as increased "heat load" can harm salmon and local salmonid habitats. There is now a new chilled-water system in place and the UWMC no longer has the need to use lake water or discharge into the Montlake Cut.
8. The following documents are currently in development or being updated and will be sent to UWF for stakeholder review/comment:
 - a. Electrical Safety Program Manual (Out for external stakeholder review).
 - b. Contractor Safety Manual (In development).
 - c. Hearing Loss Prevention Manual Updates (Out for external stakeholder review).
 - d. Asbestos Management Plan Updates (Currently being updated).
 - e. University Hazard Communication Plan Updates (EH&S internal review complete and edits being addressed before sending to external stakeholders).
 - f. Fall Protection Self Audit Checklist (EH&S internal review).
 - g. Shop Safety Program Manual Updates (Out for external stakeholder review).
 - h. Powered Industrial Trucks Program Manual (In development).

UWF Group 2 Health & Safety Committee – Chris P shared that February and March minutes have not been approved yet but will be posted as soon as they are ready.

Note: Group 2 minutes are on the same web page as the Safety Team Meeting minutes:
<https://facilities.uw.edu/partner-resources/safety>

April Monthly Safety Topics (only review the topics relevant for your shop and go in depth) – Ron

- **Building Evacuation/Assembly Areas & What to Do in An Emergency** – Familiarize yourself with your building's evacuation procedures, especially if you will be working in a building you don't work in often. Know where the emergency exits are located.
- **Personal Protective Equipment** – PPE is for everyone. Each shop should have the Hazard Review Checklist, Job Hazard Analysis or other hazard identification tools completed and accessible. PPE is available free of charge. If something is not stocked, we can order it. Find out more information on PPE at the EH&S website: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/workplace/personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- **Wildfire Smoke** – New training is being developed in response to new rules from L&I. Don't make your shop site-specific plans yet. EH&S will prepare the new training once L&I completes the updates.

- **Heat Related Illness** – Familiarize yourself with the signs and symptoms of heat stroke. Know where to find shade, and cooler areas in buildings. Consider making sure teams have radios when working in the tunnels for emergency communication. Learn more at: <https://facilities.uw.edu/partner-resources/files/media/heatrelated-illness.pdf>
- **Preparing for Emergencies** – Ensure all your employees have taken Intro to Personal Preparedness: <https://uw.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/65ba7a8b/enroll> and are signed up for UW Alert: <http://www.washington.edu/safety/alert/>. Know how to communicate with family in the event of a major event. Sometimes texts can work when cell service is out. Consider calling and texting out of area contacts as sometimes local service is unavailable during emergencies but out of area service may still work.

Review of February Incident/Accident Reports:

The only Incident/Accident Report discussed was the potential lead exposure/red dust incident, for which there were multiple reports. Chris and others reported that dust in the B Wing, K wing mechanical spaces and South Campus Center was tested and found to have very low levels of lead. EH&S determined occupants were not exposed to levels of lead above the occupational exposure limit but in an abundance of caution the Regulated Material contractor was brought in to clean the areas. This incident is an ongoing L&I investigation.

New Business: The small electric utility vehicles on campus are often passed by cars. There also seems to be particular confusion at the Pend Oreille and Mason intersection at the gatehouse. Can we do more with “no passing” signage on campus and/or on utility vehicles, and signage to clarify traffic flow around that gatehouse? Chris will ask about these issues.

Action Items (report at next meeting):

1. Chris will follow up on question about UWPD not being allowed to give tickets for trespassing.
2. Katherine Huebl will share more information with Officer Stewart about the call to UWPD discussed above.
3. Regarding the EH&S report item 6, Chris will ask John Wallace about what’s different about the new spill kits and protocol.
4. Chris will ask Transportation Services about “no passing” signage and traffic flow around the Pend Oreille/Mason gatehouse intersection.

Next meeting April 30, 2024

[February 2023 Accident reports](#)