



**EFCOG Electrical Safety Subgroup
June 9, 2010 Teleconference Meeting Minutes
Submitted by T. David Mills**

Attendees

See attached roster.

Introduction and Discussion of Recent Events

Mark McNellis opened the meeting as Chair.

1.0 Monthly Occurrence Reporting: Bobby Gray and Skip Searfoss

Mark called for attendees to share about any recent events, but none volunteered. Mark shared about an incident where a New Mexico State student was disassembling an accelerator and shorted out a relay. He asked Lloyd how this could happen (a student involved in disassembly) and Lloyd shared that they typically have a mentor and are under close supervision. Apparently, the policy was circumvented and there was no L/T or verification of safe energy state. It was scored 110 using the severity tool.

Keith Schuh shared that a subcontractor worked without placing a lock on a lockout for removal and replacement of lights. The facility performed the L/T, but the subcontractor failed to place a lock on the L/T.

Skip related the monthly stats as somewhat positive as there were 7 versus 13 events for the month as compared to the previous month. Only one involved an electrical worker and the rest were non-electrical workers. There were 3 L/T events, 4 inadequate planning events and 1 excavation event. There seemed to be more incidents where the hazard found the worker instead of the other way around.

Lloyd asked when we might move away from raw numbers and move toward weighted scores for comparisons. He suggested that it may be a good task for one of the working groups at the Fall Workshop. Mike Hicks suggested that we might use the average severity rating versus number of events.

2.0 Discrepancy reporting GFCI protected shocks- Mike H, Skip, group

Bobby Gray had suggested this topic and stated that energy should be considered hazardous based on the source.

Lloyd mentioned that GFCI's

1. just operate on ground faults
2. condition is unknown unless maintained

3. prevent shocks that cause fibrillation, not all shocks

Therefore, you must be careful crediting the GFCI with more than its capability.

We may need to revisit the crediting of GFCI as mitigating. We may also need to update tool instructions, possibly at the workshop in the Fall.

Paul Chapman related that the circumstances dictate the categorization and mitigation. The GFCI mitigation may be against the environmental or the shock hazard factor and we have more work to do.

3.0 “Why Men Take Risks” – special guest Gavan Howe

Gavan Howe was invited to speak with us about why men take risks and especially electrical workers. Mark invited him based on a conversation he had with Mike Doherty at the last IEEE Electrical Safety Workshop after a presentation Mike made there on the subject. Some of the interesting data points include:

- a. victims of electrical injuries are 100 times more likely to die than from all other types of incidents
- b. working live is the single greatest threat (50% of all electrical incidents)
- c. non-electrical workers are responsible for 79% of all electrical incidents
- d. young men are the greatest risk-takers and learn experientially
- e. workers need education and empowerment to say “No” to live work

4.0 Office of enforcement visit – Lloyd

Lloyd deferred to allow more time for Gavan Howe.

5.0 Fall Workshop – Jim Durnan

Jim shared that the web address is www.bnl.gov/efcogworkshop/ and that it is up and running. Lloyd suggested that he link to the electrical safety workshop information. Jim will insert if Lloyd sends the link. Jackie McAlhaney will draft an agenda and post soon.

6.0 NFPA 70E certification program – Jackie

Email from Bobby Gray mentioned that NFPA will be bringing back the NFPA 70E certification training in September. He asked if we should make it available at the workshop. A one-day course may be possible for us as Bobby thinks he can make the case that we are advanced users. The cost would be around \$10,000 for the one-day course. Bobby could actually be the instructor.

7.0 DOE ES Handbook – Mark, Pat

Mark mentioned that we have almost all of the input for changes except for Chapter 5 and need a checker to help the volunteer he has for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m. Eastern Time.