

SLU Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes 01/22/09

The meeting was held at Paso Robles AAB and started at 0915. In attendance: John Richardson (chair), Pat Kerschen (HQ), M. Mihalco (80), C. Mitchell (B-3), E. Beckius (B-3), T. Raye (Training), Kirk Petrie (B-6), M. Parry (VYCC), Geoff Money (Trn./EMS), Dale Rodriguez (HQ), A. Taylor (B-2), N. Herring (Cuesta CC), Albert Aguilar (Service Center).

Read minutes from last meeting.

Old Business

- 1. Sample monthly inspection forms were passed out and 3418 will put some samples on a disc for everyone.**

- 2. The safety PPE policy for roadway incidents is being reviewed by Executive Management. More info will follow when it is adopted.**

- 3. Boots- Chief Jenkins would like a committee to research and submit an issue paper on the pros and cons of the different types of boots. The committee would look into and propose changes to management for the units SOG's for all PPE. Albert is doing a cost comparison for the different styles. If you are interested in being on this committee please get approval from your supervisor and contact 3418. 3401 approved the testing of a new boot in the field that was supplied by a vendor to Albert. There is a size 9 and 10 boot left at the warehouse to be tested. Contact your Battalion Chief to become one of the testers.
Note: The only approved structure gear is what is issued from the service center. This is not an option.*

- 4. BDU Pants- The word from the state Safety Officer is that they are not currently approved but still being evaluated.**

- 5. Contact Lenses- The state Safety Officer said according to the H/S handbook only hard contact lenses are prohibited; soft lenses are ok to wear at work. Employees should be aware of the dangers of wearing contact lenses when exposed to heat, toxic fumes, dust, etc. while engaged on emergency incidents.**

New Business

3418

We discussed an email from the state Safety Officer about FC-B's running heavy equipment (i.e. loaders, graders) without the proper training. There are some guidelines that were developed by the state and they have been forwarded to the unit.

Glued finger-jointed structural building components were discussed and the report from the state has been sent to all stations and camps.

Inclement weather driving awareness was stressed and guidelines have been sent out to everyone. The message also covered headlight use, cell phone use while driving, seat belt use, and the "Basic Speed Law".

Code-3 driving while towing specialized equipment was discussed. It was recommended that any equipment that is being bumper pulled should not go Code-3. Battalion 3411 is writing a policy that will be distributed to the field when it has been approved by management.

The issue of different style structure boots was revisited. Chief Jenkins has agreed to have a PPE committee look at the units PPE SOG's and report back to the Health and Safety with their findings. This will include all PPE not just boots. If you are interested in getting on the committee get approval from your supervisor and contact B3418. Albert brought a new style approved structure boot to be tested in the unit. There are two pairs left in the warehouse (sizes 9, 10). Get approval from your supervisor and contact Albert to see if they are still available. We will make an evaluation form and see how they perform.

The email from the academy about the 1000 degree proof turnouts was discussed.

Valley fever issues were discussed and an email was sent to all stations and camps about the exposure that occurred on some of the fires this summer.

Round Table

Alvin Taylor showed the committee some proposed standardized medical bags. He will be contacting the field for input about the kits and then present the findings to management. The big issue was unit-wide standardization.

Geoff Money advised the committee about a new state DNR form that is coming out and he promised he would provide training to the field on the form.

Accident/Injury Summary

There were 5 summaries that the committee looked at. Four were minor sprains and bumps. One required hospitalization.

The next Health and Safety Meeting will be held March 26 at Station 21 starting at 0930.