



The TBB Safety Committee met at the Houston chapter office on August 8-9, 2013. There were a total of 14 members in attendance with the group consisting of a good mix of general and specialty contractors, consultants, insurance providers, and chapter employees.

08/08/13

After self-introductions from the attendees, Thursday's meeting started out with confirmation of Chris Roberts, Safety Director for Brookstone, as the Vice-Chairman, At-Large, which had been a vacant position. A presentation was then given by Steve Rothwell, Safety, Health & Environmental Manager with Austin Bridge & Road, regarding the significant changes to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Construction General Permit to discharge under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). After the presentation, several group members shared and discussed lessons learned. Four main topics were covered, which included seatbelt policies, unauthorized workers in restricted work areas, heavy equipment use/component failure, and excavations.

After the group took a lunch break, they covered a number regulatory, legal, and miscellaneous updates. Some recent union and interest group movements in Texas were discussed, and several members shared some instances where they had dealt directly with some of those types of groups. The most recent AGC of America Safety Committee Meeting (National) was held in Denver, CO in July, and the major updates and meeting summaries were given. OSHA has been active in many areas. Their pre-rulemaking items include backing operations, post-tension cable operations, silica, and standards improvement projects. The standards that OSHA is working on are confined spaces for construction and also updates to the cranes standards. Directive development includes highway work zones, communication towers, OSHA's Field Operations Manual (FOM), and excavation/trenching operations.

OSHA will continue to address their Fall Campaign throughout the year and also their Heat Illness Prevention Campaign during the remaining hot months of the year. One item that has been on the radar for a while but has garnered much more attention recently is the issue of temporary workers. OSHA's Temporary Employee Initiative instructs their inspectors to assess whether or not employers that use temporary workers are complying with their responsibilities under the OSH Act. Inspectors will code the information in their records to denote when temporary workers are exposed to hazards, and assess whether or not they have received the required or adequate training in a language and vocabulary that they could understand. Several members confirmed that this is already taking place on their worksites.



08/09/13

Friday's meeting recapped the previous day's work. The group reviewed the reports from each subcommittee and the goals for the next meeting.

- Safety Initiatives and Work Practices – will prepare a disclaimer for approved safety resources and related items prior to adding them; the presentation from this meeting and related materials (e.g. PPT file and TPDES permit) will be added to list of resources to add to the website
- Information and Resources – obtain and send original versions, if possible, of approved resources to Safety Initiatives and Work Practices to be scanned as PDF files to be posted on the TBB website; will prepare a list of future resources (e.g. heat safety, environmental issues, health issues such as flu, updated HCS/GHS)
- Government – group was idle at this meeting and participated in the other three subcommittees; as issues develop that need attention, group will
- Professional Development – worked on presentation for the upcoming meeting in Houston and have two topics in mind to choose from (i.e. new confined space standard or the latest TCEQ revision to SWPPP, which became effective on 03/06/13); will finalize details and schedule appropriate speaker, which will depend on whether the new confined space standard is published between now and the next meeting or not

The next meeting will be held at a yet to be determined hotel on South Padre Island on October 24-25, 2013.

