



## Meeting Minutes

### Facilities Directorate Zero Accident Council

September 9, 2015

#### Items of Interest

##### Review of DZAC Purpose and Expectations

- Bring safety suggestions, complaints or concerns from your workgroup directly to Senior Management
- Communicate status or resolution of concerns back to your workgroup
- Present the DZAC training subjects to your workgroup – 10 minutes
- Sign-in sheets are returned to Lisa, Janice, Gene
- Your responsibility to arrange for replacement if unable to attend meeting

##### Hearing Loss

- Difficult to hear warning signals
- Understand speech
- Reduces ability to communicate
  - Social isolation
  - Participating in other activities

##### Prevented

- Damage to your hearing can be prevented
  - Once permanent noise-induced hearing loss occurs, **it cannot be cured or reversed**
- Noise can affect your body in other ways
  - Recent study found that workers persistently exposed to excessive occupational noise may be 2-3 times more likely to suffer from serious heart disease than workers who were not exposed

##### Stealth Long-Term Hazard

- Painless gradual process
- Damage can occur within the ear at noise levels similar to that of running a lawn mower for eight hours.
- Repeated exposure to high noise levels and periodic exposures to very high noise levels-example use of a nail gun
- Most frequently it occurs slowly over time from exposure to moderate levels of noise

## How Do You Know

- Herb Toor-test tools/work locations
- Signage
- Research shows that your hearing can be damaged by regular 8-hour exposure to 85dBA
- It can take repeated exposures of as little as 1 hour per day with exposures of 100dBA (Jack Hammer/stud welder)
- 2 - 3 foot rule - Stand about an arm length away from your coworker: If you have to raise your voice to be heard, you should assume that the sound level is at or above 85dBA

## Limit Exposure

- Plan to make or use prefabricated noise barriers
- When purchasing tools or equipment buy quieter
- Limit the hours you work in hazardous noise areas
- Follow signage directions
- Use hearing protection
- Maintain and retrofit equipment
  - Changing seals, lubricating parts, using sharp blades and bits, installing mufflers, and replacing faulty or worn equipment or parts can reduce noise levels
- Neither portable music player headphones nor hearing aids are substitutes for hearing protective devices
- Wearing ear buds under your hearing protection while working is **prohibited**

**Hearing Protective Devices**

Type	Features	Concerns
 <p><b>Roll down foam</b></p>	<p>Fits many differently shaped ear canals. Provides good protection for most noisy environments. Convenient, disposable.</p>	<p>Must be inserted properly to get the highest possible protection. If the plug doesn't make a good seal, it won't protect your hearing.</p>
 <p><b>Reusable earplugs</b></p>	<p>Many have flanges and handles. Come in different sizes. Come with cords, convenient to carry. Reusable. Washable.</p>	<p>Preformed so may not fit as wide a variety of ear canals as foam plugs. May require a different size for each ear. Must keep them clean.</p>
 <p><b>Custom molded</b></p>	<p>Molded to user's ear. Always comfortable. Long-term wear. Best for difficult-to-fit ears.</p>	<p>Must be made by a licensed hearing protection provider.</p>
 <p><b>Canal caps</b></p>	<p>On a band, can be worn under chin, over head, or behind neck. Can be put on and taken off quickly.</p>	<p>Not as comfortable as other devices. Not as much protection as other devices.</p>
 <p><b>Earmuffs</b></p>	<p>Easy to use and wear. Fit most people. Easy to keep clean.</p>	<p>Can be hot and heavy. May be more difficult to get a good fit with glasses and/or may interfere with other protective gear.</p>

#### Fit Test

- Contact Herb Toor for fit test
- Protect Yourself

#### Today's Discussion:

- Reminder of the hot weather to stay hydrated. Look after your co-workers make sure they take breaks, sit in the shade and drink and have water available to them.
- B62/B67 by parking lot smoking section, people smoking putting smoking butts in the grass area. Janice Sexson is going to talk with Building Manager to remind people to use cans and have signs posted – Fire Hazard.
- B17 Hill – Clean Hill V-Ditch Area. Steve Lindberg to walk area.
- Status of Ventilation in B77 Shop Area. Mike Botello looking into see if there are some large fans available temporarily due to the extreme heat.

#### Forwarding DZAC Information

- Reminder to turn in your review sheets before our next meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2015

#### Reminder to Everyone

- You have the right to work in a safe environment
- You have the right to tell anyone at any level that they are not working in a safe manner
- You have the right to stop a job if it's not being done safely



