

Electric Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC) minutes  
August 13, 2019  
9:30 a.m.  
IBEW 77 Hall  
194515 International Blvd.  
SeaTac, WA.98188-5308

The EUSAC is an advisory committee consisting of IBEW and employer representatives from Washington utilities and utility contractors and the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). the mission of the EUSAC is to promote the safety and health of the electrical worker and the public through communication, with consensus recommendations made to L&I.

Chair: Adam Brinkman  
Recording Secretary: Dale Benner (absent)  
Acting Secretary: Ed Schlecht

1. **Self-Introductions**
2. **Old Business: none**
3. **New Business**

**A. L&I Update**

- I. Introduced Terri Nelly new with L&I.
- II. Discussion on OSHA pushing L&I to take fall restraint out of WAC-45 and have one unified code for this.
  - Telecom wants to keep it in their code book
  - Discussion on leaving it in WAC-45 and adding a note at the end of the 32 unified code to reference WAC-45
  - Motion was made by Byron Allen (to keep fall protection language in WAC45, and a note added after 880 in OSHA 32 to reference WAC-45). Second to the motion came from Steve Harkin
  - L&I says they will start work on this and should be ready for review in about a month
- III. Two new L&I inspectors were recently hired, they were introduced one for western WA and one for western WA
- IV. Inside Electricians are making a push at the 5g work
  - Discussion on if they are qualified to do the work
  - Jake Carter mentioned how Local 125 is working hard to keep this work IBEW
  - Discussion on educating utilities on the hiring of unqualified workers
- V. November EUSAC meeting moved to the 19<sup>th</sup>
- VI. L&I mentioned that they could put a draft together on what deems someone as qualified
- VII. The new WAC-45 is out but has a misprint on the MAD table, they will be reprinting

**B. Employers Update**

- I. Discussion on the new ANSI Z-133 rule that allows Arborists to get up to 2'3" from energized wire.
- II. L&I discussed how they enforce the 10' rule with line clearance trimming, this rule is not directed at them but at private Arborist

### **C. IBEW information**

- I. Damian mentioned that Lou Walter has retired, Rex Habner is the new Business Manager and the new voting member for Local 77

### **4. Accidents/Near misses**

- A. Lewis County had a chain saw cut a Tree Trimmer's left thumb, required stitches
- B. Tacoma Power had a person break and enter a sub-station and climb up a microwave tower. Negotiators were not successful and after a number of hours he jumped and did not survive. The Tacoma employees that witnessed it have been offered counseling.
- C. Two Tacoma Metermen went to check on a tampering claim, they were confronted by a person with a gun and the gun was discharged
- D. Drive-by shooting in Tacoma resulted in a car hit pole, reminder for all to stay vigilant
- E. Electrical contact in an Alaska Sub-station was a Local 77 member he survived but with life lasting injuries
- F. Avista had a person cut his hand when a 4" grinder wheel broke, required stitches
- G. Man lift made contact with 69kv when two men were operating from the ground in Centralia, WA. Both were airlifted to a hospital and released 6 days later.
- H. Seattle City Light service bucket hit by city bus, no injuries
- I. Discussion on drones in our industry and how we should have a voice in how they will be used and regulated
- J. Warehouse employee at PGE got a broken foot when they tried to stop a roll of million underground wire
- K. A hydro tech broke two bones in one leg when he fell backwards off an elevated platform
- L. A inside electrician got arc flash burns when he closed in on cross phased 480v meter base

### **5. Other items of interest relevant to EUSAC**

- A. Trying for either April 15 & 16 or May 13 & 14 for 2020 IBEW/NECA Safety Summit and looking for a place with a larger capacity.
- B. Local 483 is offering T&D OSHA 10, contact Local 483 for more information.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>**