

**APPROVED MINUTES
NYSDEC JOINT STATEWIDE HEALTH & SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 25, 2006

Attendees:

Joe Lattanzio	(Co-Chair) DEC Director of Employee Relations - Albany
Jim Kersten	(Co-Chair) PEF/EnCon - Buffalo
Mark Malinoski	Division of Operations - Albany
Thomas Rinaldi	Division of Forest Protection & Fire Management - Albany
Walter Heinrich	Division of Law Enforcement - Region 4
Richard Martin	Division of Law Enforcement - Central Office
Glenn Milstrey	DEC Emergency Response Coordinator - Albany
Luke Evans	Division of Forest Protection & Fire Management - Region 6
Verne French	CSEA - Region 5
Ed Kucskar	Health & Safety Unit - Albany
Mark Cadrette	Health & Safety Unit - Albany
Nanette Geary	Health & Safety Unit - Albany
Holly Clark	PEF - Albany
Wayne Bayer	PEF - Albany
Mike Kanuk	PEF - SUNYE
Marie Furlong	Employee Relations - Albany
Matt Kozak	CSEA Headquarters - Albany [Guest]
Geraldine Stella	PEF Headquarters [Guest]

Welcome/Minutes/Miscellaneous

The minutes of the January 31, 2006 meeting were approved and distributed on 4/11/06.

Health & Safety Committee Training Sub-Committee Meeting

The sub-committee met for the first time on 4/24/06 to discuss the SHIP Grant (Safety & Health Initiatives Program) which will be funded by PEF and GOER contract funds. These funds should be available through 2007. It is hoped that monies from this Grant will provide the training to make our local and Statewide health and safety committees more effective and stimulate more involvement at the local level. The estimated cost of the training will be \$15,000.

Geraldine Stella, PEF Headquarters Health & Safety Specialist, gave an overview of the proposed training. The training will be conducted at a three (3) day conference to be attended by Statewide and local committee members and Regional Directors or their designees. The three (3) days were outlined as follows: Day 1 would be a half-day panel discussion/group work to identify roadblocks, frustrations and successes. Day 2 would be a full day session. Participants will bring their agenda items and break into training workshops where the issues will be facilitated. Day 3 will be a half-day session to report back on what the participants found useful in the training.

PEF sees this as a collaborative effort and is looking for the Committee's support. Participants will need three (3) days of release time. The last week of October 2006 was suggested for the training and Syracuse, Utica or Lake Luzerne were mentioned as possible locations.

communication services as a result of a pandemic flue outbreak, stated that nationalization of job titles only applies to the National Guard, and reported that staffing would be handled by the involved Programs. He also mentioned there is a multi-agency group looking at the handling of birds. The CDC has come out with info on protection; DEC will conform or exceed these guidelines.

Outer Carriers for Ranger Body Armor - Update

T. Rinaldi reported that the body armor requested by the Rangers was ordered in mid-March and will be delivered by the beginning of June. It was agreed to drop this issue from future agendas. **Update: As of July 13, the body armor has not been received. Item to remain on the agenda until armor is received.**

Layering System for Ranger Uniforms

L. Evans reported that the Rangers would like the layering system of their uniform improved. He investigated a different, quilted vest which is to be worn between the shirt and jacket or as a standalone and Polypro undergarments. He brought a sample of the Polypro t-shirt which sells for \$15. The shirt has the Ranger insignia and dries quickly. Cotton t-shirts are very uncomfortable when they get wet as they do not dry quickly. He requested two (2) shirts for each ranger. T. Rinaldi said Management will consider the vests. Although Management considers undergarments to be a personal item to be supplied by the individual and not part of the uniform, he will consider the sample offered.

Although there was no discussion held due to a lack of information at the time, J. Kersten mentioned that the Foresters had an issue with their clothing ordering form and layering system.

Lack of Nomex Patches on Ranger Fire Clothing

L. Evans commented that the standard Ranger patch does not have Nomex thread and, therefore, is a burn hazard. T. Rinaldi reported that some time ago the Health & Safety Unit was consulted for a determination on this safety issue. It was decided that the patch and thread was not a significant health and safety threat. It was mutually agreed to drop this item from future agendas.

Clandestine Labs - Update

W. Heinrich reported that he sent an e-mail J. Marsch regarding the issue of a site safety plan for a past incident in Region 6 in which both the DEC and State Police responded. Major Heinrich told the Committee DEC did not have a plan; responders were under the oversight of the State Police. DEC did have an investigator there, but he did not enter the site. In response to PEF's inquiry, Major Heinrich advised that, in order to review the plan (which is possibly restricted information), a FOIL request would need to be filed through the Health & Safety Unit.

Placement of Lights on 2002 and Newer DLE Vehicles - Update

Serviceable 2002 vehicles are being turned in to OGS for redeployment. As for the newer vehicles, the retrofit packages have been sent out to each region for installation. We have provided yellow strobes for the rear of all Blazer vehicles. Newly purchased vehicles will have built in front and rear of the vehicles.

conduct two (2) drills per year. Should they fall behind, the Health & Safety Unit will follow up to assure compliance. By the time of the next meeting, J. Edouard to provide list of drills held so far in 2006.

Supervisors' Health & Safety Training

Health & Safety staff reported that the first round of training (targeted at upper level supervisors) has been completed. The next round for mid-level supervisors/bureau chiefs will commence in early summer. The third round will be for line supervisors. The schedule should be announced within 2 weeks. Management to forward a copy of the schedule to PEF. J. Lattanzio to notify J. Kersten when the Region 9 training is to be held.

Defensive Driving

All Central Office and Regional Office sessions have been completed. It was mutually agreed to drop this issue.

Asbestos

It was mutually agreed to drop this issue.

Special Health Status Identification - Update

It was mutually agreed to drop this issue.

Respirator Cleaning Area

Nothing new to report. The Health & Safety Unit has identified applicable space for this purpose; however, it is space currently owned by another program. An agreement to share the space is needed. J. Lattanzio suggested a letter from the CO H&S Committee to Management may assist in moving this issue along.

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2006

The next meeting of the Committee will be on **August 3, 2006 at 9:30 A.M. in Room 1022 at 625 Broadway**. PEF proposed November 9, 2006 for the last meeting of the year.

Other

Local Committee Formation
Health & Safety Website
SOPs
Medical Monitoring - Update on Tetanus Program
(Use of SS# via Program Requests & Form Development)

Issues Placed on Inactive Status

Department Health & Safety Budget Initiative/Staffing
Workplace Violence
Right to Know Training
Safety Incentive Differential (SID) (Hazardous duty pay)
Exposure to Toxic Substances: Amendment to Law/Record Maintenance
Posting Occupational Injury Log