

## **APCA Safety Meeting**

May 9, 2024, Houston, Texas

### **Safety Moment**

Safety Chair Vince Chapa introduced the group to the Kwik Brain C.O.D.E. Quiz, which is designed to help people uncover their brain type and gain valuable insights into their unique approach to learning, problem-solving, and decision-making. Everyone took the quiz to determine if they are a quick-thinking cheetah, insightful owl, creative dolphin, or empathetic elephant, and the group discussed how all of this relates to safety and their jobs.

The group then discussed a recent robbery at gunpoint on a jobsite in Houston and ways to protect yourself and your people. They talked about situational awareness and ensuring that anything valuable is locked up.

Another issue discussed was driving in wet, foggy conditions and making sure headlights are turned on. Those who use the automatic headlight function should be especially alert because lights often don't come on in the fog because it's just not dark enough. Tell your people to turn off that function in foggy conditions or cover up the sensor on the dash. Be careful out there!

### **Message from APCA Leadership**

APCA President-Elect Kevin LaBauve, WHC Energy Services, said that the Safety Committee provides great value for contractor and associate members. He said that people can lose perspective when they stay inside their own company and that this committee provides collaboration and outside-the-box thinking. He said the committee is a good tool for attracting new members. He discussed the APCA board's new initiative to develop a training standard that can serve as a guide for members and a way to promote the high standards of merit shop contractors. He also talked about the Construction Career Collaborative (C3) that brings together stakeholders from the construction industry (ABC, AGC & other associations) to create a safe, skilled, and sustainable workforce. Learn more at <https://c3.org>.

### **DOT Compliance w/ Sunland Construction**

Job Moscot, DOT Compliance Manager with Sunland, explained the Safety Measurement System or SMS (<https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/SMS>), which is your company's report card that everyone can see. Good SMS scores help your company win bids and get lower insurance rates. Two things that keep your score low are regular maintenance and pre-trip inspections. The driver is always responsible for Daily Vehicle Inspection Reports ([https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetyplanner/documents/Forms/Driver's%20Vehicle%20Inspection%20Report\\_508.pdf](https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetyplanner/documents/Forms/Driver's%20Vehicle%20Inspection%20Report_508.pdf)). "How long does the inspection take?" Moscot asked. "As long as it takes." He said that debris is also a big issue with inspectors so look out for things like water bottles rolling around the floor, paperwork/hats on the dash, etc. Some companies use Safety Compliance & Training LLC (<https://safetycomplianceandtraining.com>), a private company that offers consulting and training services. Moscot explained the different types of FMCSA roadside inspections (see <https://www.cvsa.org/inspections/all-inspection-levels>) and said to look out for a special emphasis on brake inspections during

the week of August 25-31 this year. During the open discussion, a committee member said to make sure your trailer hitches are properly rated for the load you're carrying because many people don't know there are different ratings. Hitches have a stamp on them, and you're looking for a 3 or a 4.

### **OSHA Update**

OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist Jim Shelton gave his quarterly update to the group. He said there aren't a lot of new issues but noted that the agency is reemphasizing heat safety as summer nears. A new heat standard is expected by September. He said the Houston office has received some 300 heat complaints, mostly from cooks and many from delivery drivers. He urged committee members to keep an eye on all workers, especially those who work mostly alone, like drivers. Be forewarned that on heat advisory days, OSHA will for sure be out inspecting.

Shelton said that OSHA is realigning its regions, adding an office in Birmingham and combining two regions to make a San Francisco office (<https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/national/05082024>). The changes won't affect employers much. The new OSHA Walkaround Rule has gone into effect, and Shelton is curious to see how it is utilized. He announced upcoming OSHA events: Forklift Safety Day on June 11 and the annual Trench Safety Stand Down June 17-21.

Any committee members with OSHA questions can contact Jim Shelton directly at [Shelton.James@dol.gov](mailto:Shelton.James@dol.gov).

### **Meeting Speakers**

The group discussed possible speakers and topics for future meetings. Vince Chapa has secured a speaker from the Construction Safety Research Alliance for the Q3 meeting. From the CSRA website ([www.csra.colorado.edu](http://www.csra.colorado.edu)): "The CSRA is a community of industry leaders and academic experts who collaborate to create and share new safety knowledge. We execute scientific research focused on the prevention of serious injuries and fatalities." The CSRA vision is "To eliminate serious injuries and fatalities in the construction industry through transformative research and defensible science."

Tyler Rosenberg from Caterpillar told APCA staff that the Cat Safety Services team could present at the Q4 meeting. He sent this information: Caterpillar Safety Services has empowered hundreds of organizations around the world by uncovering cultural realities, building improvement strategies, upskilling leaders, engaging & involving employees, establishing accountability, embedding positive, and safety mindsets.

### **Dates for 2024 APCA Safety Meetings**

Q3 - August 22

Q4 - November 7

All meetings will be at the Sheraton North Houston at George Bush Intercontinental <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/hougi-sheraton-north-houston-at-george-bush-intercontinental/overview/>

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