



# Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Committee



## Annual Meeting September 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karena Marinas at the Horseshoe Hotel in Las Vegas at 1300 PDT.

### In attendance

Chairperson & Western Pacific (NWP) Representative Karena Marinas, Vice-Chair & Southern Region Representative (NSO) Mark Sellek, New England Representative Matt Murray, Great Lakes Region Representative (NGL) Xavier Rivera, Southwest Region Representative (NSW) Deb Stewart, Central Region Representative (NCE) Brett Hansen, Northwest Mountain Representative (NNM) Natalie Glore, Alaska Region Representative (NAL) Elijah McDonald, Region X Representative (NRX) Homer Benavides, and NATCA Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) Geoff Bacci.

### Chair Update

#### Opening Remarks

Karena Marinas opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their hard work over the past year and took time to reflect on what we're engaged in, how far we've come, and how the committee has grown as a resource to the National Executive Board (NEB) and Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs). Karena Marinas also explained that the Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP) Event Review Committee (ERC) is receiving reports that representatives should file within the Unsatisfactory Condition Report (UCR) program. Lastly, Karena Marinas discussed ways to increase communication, direct issues to the correct reporting program, and celebrate Committee achievements that improve facility safety in our regions.

#### Updates

Karena Marinas discussed the importance of the committee's monthly updates to the NEB and NATCA Safety and Tech. The committee attendees discussed ways to improve and shorten our communication through our monthly updates.

#### Training

Karena Marinas asked the Committee what training the group would like to see for the upcoming year and in what format. The Committee discussed the need for more understanding of Federal Contract Towers (FCTs) and their associated contracts. Additionally, the Committee brought up training issues around remote sites and unattended facilities and the unique issues facing both groups.

#### Team Roles

Karena Marinas informed the Committee about how other committees have assigned roles and responsibilities within their groups to distribute administrative workload and the success that those committees have seen as a result. After much discussion about the types of roles the OSHA Committee requires, the group assigned the following positions:

- Committee Training
- Member Training
- Logistics/Event Planning
- Outreach
- Secretary
- Treasurer



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**Annual Meeting  
September 16, 2024**

## Top Issues

Karena Marinas asked the group to brainstorm and identify the top issues that presented themselves to the Committee over the past year. After much discussion, the group identified the following list:

- Elevator Outages
- Water Intrusions
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Outages
- Fire Life Safety system outages and Evacuation Procedures/Policies
- Water quality testing issues and bottled water
- General facility cleanliness
- Air Quality
- Wildlife issues
- Winter weather issues

The Committee agreed to use these issues as training focus items for the membership during the upcoming year.

## **Deborah Stewart, NSW Representative – How well do you know OSHA?**

Deb Stewart presented the year's top ten items from OSHA nationwide and compared them to the regular issues Committee members deal with in the Regional Occupational Safety, Health, and Environmental Compliance Committee (OSHECCOM) Meetings. Deb Stewart led a discussion with the Committee on better addressing these issues in the coming year and using existing FAA programs to mitigate issues in the top ten OSHA categories.

## **Homer Benavides, NRX Representative – Construction: CPC Perspectives**

Homer Benavides conducted a 5-module lesson on construction perspectives and considerations for Controllers in OSHA roles with subjects including overview and planning; roles, responsibilities, and requirements; construction phases, Operational Risk Management (ORM); and Environmental, Occupational, Safety, and Health (EOSH) considerations. The training also covered how projects originate and how many groups are involved in large-scale projects.

## **Geoff Bacci, NATCA CIH – Heat Stress and the OSHA Proposed Standard**

Due to increasing issues with HVAC problems around our facilities nationwide, processes and decision-making surrounding facility evacuation for high temperatures reached an all-time high this year, creating complicated situations for Facility Representatives (FacReps). No OSHA standard exists for thermal stress; our reps have relied on Joint Order 3900.76, and OSHA depends on the General Duty Clause, which presents a high threshold for action.

OSHA recently released a proposed standard and Karena Marinas asked NATCA's CIH to review it and provide a briefing to the OSHA Committee. Geoff Bacci explained that heat stress and calculating practical workplace limits involves employees engaged in heavy labor and some significant math equations. Geoff further explained the effects of heat stress on the body and associated injuries, stating that while most controllers won't experience the level of work or heat to cause such injuries, mild cognitive effects happen well before physical



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September 16, 2024**



symptoms of heat stress. Geoff closed the discussion by explaining why humidity significantly impacts heat stress and discussed some exceptions in the proposed OSHA standard.

Ultimately, the Committee discussed several ways to incorporate what we learned from Geoff's briefing and our own ongoing efforts to address this issue with the NEB.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Karena Marinas  
OSHA Committee Chair

**Minutes prepared by:** Karena Marinas, Mark Sellek