

Safety Committee Minutes
February 23, 2016
Harlan, Iowa

The FSC safety committee met on Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016 at the Therkildsen Center in Harlan. In attendance was Bob Bruck, Tom Grote, Ron Stitz, Jodi Gubbels, Steve Hall, Pam Gubbels, Clancy Murphy, Gary Jahn, Paul Hocamp, Jake Young, Scott Schiltz, Lance Axland, Mark Klein, Chuck Leinen, Suzy Wear, Jolene Davis, Sharon Kroger, Brian Travis (CWG), Mike Evers, Bob Gubbels, TJ Keane, Brett Sandvold, Nick Schechinger, Melissa Raymond, Ron Kenkel, Pam Borkowski, Chris Behrens, and Shawn Macha.

Tom Grote opened the meeting by thanking everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. Tom then asked the group if anyone had any additions or changes to the meeting minutes from the August safety meeting. There were no additions or changes.

Bob Bruck updated the group on work comp and accident claims. There were several new injuries reported to Bob since the last August safety meeting. The majority of incidents reported were minor slips, trips, and falls resulting in bruises and sprains. There were several slips and falls due to slick surfaces on sidewalks and parking lots. Tom Grote reminded the group to use the proper shoes when conditions are slick. Bob also informed the group that the reporting of incidents in a timely manner has been consistently improving which he thanked the group for doing.

Tom then reminded everyone to review emergency signs at their locations and, if changes are required, Pam Borkowski is the contact to work with on getting the changes done.

Tom then introduced our guest speaker Brian Travis from Continental Western Insurance. Brian is FSC's new loss control supervisor concentrating on CWGs large agricultural accounts. Brian will be visiting all FSC locations as he takes on his new role with CWG.

Brian then delivered a presentation on pre-agronomy season safety and misapplication insurance claims. Brian informed the group that many misapplication mishaps can be prevented with good communication with customers and coworkers. Brian also stressed the need for documentation including, field maps, customer conversations, spray sheets, field reports, etc. Brian's message also centered on ensuring employees are given adequate time to rest during the season. Employees who become too tired can lead to poor judgement. Equipment also needs to be properly maintained to ensure it is in good working condition to apply product. Brian also stressed the need for operators to be aware of their surroundings while operating equipment. This includes being aware of possible bee hives, gardens, organic crops, etc. that may be in the area while spraying. Brian provided a website that the state maintains where registered items such as these can be located. Brian also touched on seed mix ups that happen each year. His advice to the group was to keep all seed warehouse organized.

Brian wrapped up with a video illustrating how to operate a floater or sprayer safely. Tom Grote has a copy of this video available to any safety member who would be interested in showing this to employees at their location.