

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
SAFETY COMMITTEE
Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2011

The quarterly meeting of the Town of Southington Safety committee was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Southington, Connecticut.

Members Present: Garry Brumback, Mark Beal, Fire Chief Harold Clark, John DeGioia, Richard Lopatosky, James Paul, Mark Sciota, Cindy Wall and Steve Wlodkowski.

Members Absent: Police Chief Jack Daly, Domenic Perone, Captain Gregory Simone

- I. Roll Call: Chairman Garry Brumback called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Quorum was confirmed.
- II. Minutes of Last Meeting: Chief Buddy Clark made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2011 which was seconded by Mark Sciota. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- III. Old Business: None
- IV. Review of Accidents and Corrective Action
 - A. Reports numbered #11021 thru #11-35
 - #11-21: Chief Clark reported this is a volunteer fire fighter who was ill before he responded. A letter was sent out to everyone that if you don't feel good, don't respond. You have to be 100 percent. It was just dehydration. Not lost time. He was seen by the ambulance attendants on scene. His blood pressure came down and everything was fine.
 - #11-22 Rich Lopatosky said when he talked to Janet last time, it has happened at the place. There was no lost time they were still able to do everything. Just walking and she turned the corner and turned it funny.
 - #11-23 Mark Beal reported this is a patrolman was doing a track and he hurt himself in the left foot. He didn't lose any time. He just wanted to report it.
 - #11-24 Chief Clark reported this person had a small cut on his face. Really there was nothing you could do to avoid it unless you work in a bubble. He did have all the proper PPE on. We have since issued anybody who doesn't wear prescription glasses a set of wrap around safety glasses. We

are looking into get them for anybody who wears prescription glasses. No loss of time. It was wipe it down with alcohol and he was good to go.

#11-25 John DeGioia said this guy was working on a vehicle and when he stood up he twisted his knee. He went to Alliance and had it looked at. Everything is fine. No lost time. He was just concerned as he twisted and it hurt at the moment.

#11-26 Steve Wlodkowski explained he was working on a catch basin job and the operator twisted his knee. He lost, I think just a couple of days, but he'll be losing maybe three weeks as he's going for surgery on the 22nd.

Mr. Brumback pointed out there have been several instances where folks have gone to Alliance and gotten not so good medical advice. In the event that that happens to anybody in your department, please make me aware of it. I consider that to be unacceptable and we are going to address it at a meeting this evening.

#11-27 Mark Beal said again, doing the track, the canine officer. They follow the dog that follows the scent. This doesn't happen a lot. He's okay.

#11-28 Chief Clark explained this gentleman was leaving the fire house and returning home on his motorcycle. A child darted out in front of him on a bicycle. He crashed. We do cover them portal to portal so it becomes a workers comp situation. He did lose time. He was banged up a little bit, but not bad. It was a low speed accident. He's back to work and is just fine.

My question and concerns are if we're covering portal to portal, can we or should the town have a requirement they wear helmets. Mr. Brumback said that absolutely should be a policy to wear a helmet if you're going on town business. We can't require it on his own free time.
Discussion.

Mr. Brumback asked if anybody objected to that as a policy which nobody did. Mark Beal was asked to talk to the Chief of Police, as well.

Discussion about who is paid portal to portal and who is not among the different departments.

#11-29 Steve Wlodkowski said this is at the transfer station. This is just a trip and fall. The concrete sidewalks are raised at the transfer station and he tripped and he banged his torso on that. No lost time or anything like that. Just reported as an incident.

#11-30 Chief Clark stated there was an explosion at this garage. The door flew off and hit him in the side. He had loud ringing in his ears. No loss of time. He went seen by the ambulance attendants and went back to work during the day. He's back working.

#11-31 Steve Wlodkowski explained this worker was cleaning catch basins at the time and he got bit by something. I don't know what. But his arm got all swollen and it's just a report of incident. He didn't lose any time.

#11-32 Chief Clark noted this guy moved his chair and a staple caught his finger. And, he wrote an accident report and I report it. No loss of time. Just a report.

#11-33 Mark Beal explained this is one where one of the guys moving his gear for some reason, he must have lifted it up wrong, and he hurt his back. This happens occasionally. We have to carry a lot of stuff in and out because we don't have our own cars.

We talked about this before. I don't know if there's anything we're going to do as far as lifting --- maybe have a class on how to lift. Mr. Brumback agreed that would be a good class to have as this is happening too frequently. It's important for our guys to understand and if it requires a little bit of training on how to lift equipment, then we need to look at a class. We'll talk to the CIRMA guys. They do run those types of classes on how to lift stuff.

#11-34 Steve Wlodkowski noted this individual; the material he was attempting to shovel is stuff is not something he should have been using a shovel for. He beat his wrist up that day. No lost time. He went to the doctor and got it checked out and came back and went back to work. We had a little re-education on what type of stuff should be shovel and what not to.

#11-35 Mark Beal said this person complained of pain from the duty belt. It radiated pain. I know there was talk about when they're working a road job they maybe wear suspenders. Right now there is nothing in the works. The equipment is always on our belt and it is heavy. There have been these complaints in the past. I don't know a solution to this because we have to wear the belt.

Discussion.

Suspenders and vests were discussed as a solution. Departments all over are having this issue, not just us, added Officer Beal. The stuff is heavy.

Mr. Brumback said if there is a solution such as suspenders, I don't care how they look. Suspenders should be optional until you have your

first injury report. After that, it's no longer optional. I don't want people to optionally hurt themselves just because they're vain.

Officer Beal will take that suggestion back to Chief Daly.

Nothing further as far the accidents and corrective action to talk about.

V. New Business

A. State WCC Safety & Health Committee

Mr. Brumback reviewed the letter which was distributed to the committee.

B. Committee Members

See the list.

VI. Miscellaneous

Chief Clark stated they had a sexual harassment and violence in the workplace class yesterday. It went very well. We have another one tonight. It was opened up everybody.

If anybody has classes they want run or something you're interested in, let me know and I'll arrange it and run the class at the station. It works out real well. It's a pretty comfortable facility.

We'll probably run this class quarterly or at least twice a year.

Mr. Brumback asked if there was anything else for the good of the group.

No response.

VII. Adjournment Mark Sciota made a motion to adjourn. Richard Lopatosky seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 o'clock, p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gianoni
Recording Secretary