

VOLTS NEWSLETTER

Valuing Our Lives Through Safety

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Having the Right Tools and Utilizing a Preplan—Casey Draper

Outage work is well underway, and many IPSC employees and contractors can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Every year I'm amazed at how well-orchestrated the repairs to the major components of the Units, Baghouses, Scrubbers, Coal Yard, and Switchyard are performed. The magnitude of the tasks performed by IPSC employees and contractors to dismantle, inspect, build, repair, and reassemble the necessary components for energy production is truly remarkable.

The Right Tools

Maintenance crews always anticipate the routine maintenance for some equipment to be difficult or complex; but it can be an added challenge when an unexpected curve ball is thrown into the mix...such is the task of replacing the inside yoke on Unit 1 "F" Pulverizer. Over the years, pulverizer crews have consistently repaired, maintained, and replaced the internal components of these essential pieces of equipment. Yet, sometimes unexpected mechanical failures are identified during operation and internal inspection. Issues resulting from an eroded internal yoke were identified early in this outage and met head-on by a team of qualified employees. Armed with an arsenal of specialized tools and equipment designed to assist them, the pulverizer crew has gone to great lengths to complete this difficult task safely and effectively.

During the infrequent task of replacing a yoke assembly, the pulverizer crew needed to make extra space for the removal and replacement of this massive component. Maintenance workers emphasized, "having tools like a plasma torch and proper rigging makes all the difference when cutting through the one-inch-thick metal walls of a pulverizer" (C. Lovell, personal communication, April 10, 2022). Having the best tools available and the experience necessary to operate the specialized equipment is key for a maintenance worker when



given these types of jobs. Tools like these not only help the work go faster and smoother, but also increase our safety and reduces the wear and tear on our bodies. Over the past few years, the Maintenance Department has done a great job acquiring several new machines and tools that have increased the department's efficiency and safety while working inside and around the tight areas found within the Units. Having the right tools for the job is one of the main components of safe and efficient work when performing difficult tasks.

Utilizing a Preplan

A preplan to discuss the scope of work and critical aspects associated with the job is another important component. Proper preplanning of a job helps identify the hazards

associated with the job, the sequential order in which the task is performed, and the specific requirements needed to mitigate exposures (OSEA Safety Blog, 2021).

Putting It Together

The outage work performed inside the scrubber modules is a great time to use a preplan so the work scope can be identified and the associated hazards mitigated. Historically, this work has been an arduous task with several associated hazards. Wearing fall protection and other types of PPE, a crew of five workers is inside the permit-required confined space of the scrubber modules on top of elevated work platforms. While working, they use high-pressure water to blast away limestone slurry buildup and rinse out the inside of several large laterals and hundreds of slurry spray nozzles throughout the module.

During week four of this year's outage (the bi-pole), workers inside the Unit 1 A module in the scrubber experienced firsthand how quickly an ordinary workday can become very unusual. While installing work platforms and ropes for fall protection, a worker lost his balance and fell through a lateral

Have you observed "safety leaders" (people going above and beyond their normal responsibilities to keep themselves and others safe)? Nominate them for this year's SIA Award...the deadline for nominations is Sunday, May 1!

Having the Right Tools and Utilizing a Preplan—Casey Draper (cont.)

section of pipes. Gratefully, the worker was caught by the retractable lifeline he was tethered to. According to Safety Specialist James Dean (April 13, 2022), as fellow co-workers assessed the situation, they reflected back to the scrubber training they received from the Safety Section prior to the outage and quickly reported the incident to the fast-acting IPSC rope rescue team. Aware of the employee and the conditions inside the scrubber module, the rope rescue team rapidly responded to the call with the proper rescue gear to successfully assist the fallen worker. Having completed rope rescue training prior to the outage and a mock training scenario inside an offline scrubber module last year, the rope rescue team executed their predetermined plan and successfully rescued the fallen worker without contributing to any additional injury.

The VOLTS Steering Committee and IPSC employees appreciate the level of professionalism demonstrated by all

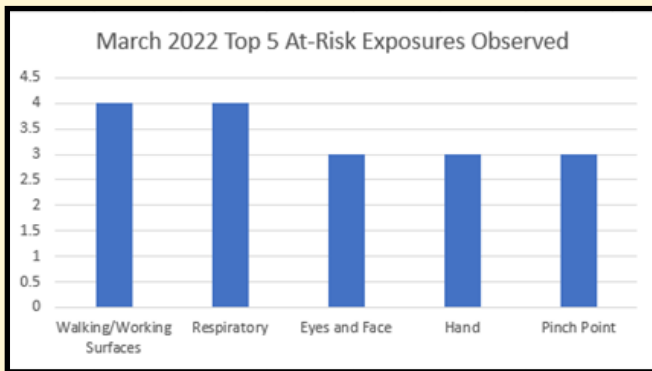
crafts and departments during the outage and throughout the year. We encourage everyone to participate in the VOLTS observation process to help increase the safety culture and watch out for exposures that may place themselves or others at risk. Training, employee participation, job preparation, preplanning, and hazard mitigation are performed daily by supervisors, employees, and members of the Safety Section to provide a safe and efficient work environment. We hope everyone is utilizing the resources available to help Value Our Lives Through Safety.

References

Chris Lovell, April 8, 2022. *Unit 1 F Pulverizer*, photo.

Occupational Safety Environmental Association, June 16, 2021. *Pre-task plans will enhance your safety programs*. OSEA Safety Blog. <https://www.osea.com/blog/pre-task-plans-will-enhance-your-safety-programs/>

VOLTS Data Report—Casey Draper



Total March Observations: 468

IPSC Employee Contact Rate: 1.39



2022 Outage Safety in Action Award Nomination Form

(Please detach form and submit it in one of the VOLTS observation card drop boxes or give to a VOLTS Steering Committee member.)

Nominee Name _____

Please give three reasons or examples of how this person is a role model for working safely or helping others to work safely.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Signed (Nominator): _____