

# VOLTS NEWSLETTER

*Valuing Our Lives Through Safety*

April 2021, Volume 89

Casey Draper, Facilitator

Amy White, Editor



## Education to Real-life Application—Casey Draper and Sara Wetzel

As April continues to fly by and the spring 2021 outage is nearing completion, I am amazed again at what an enormous undertaking it is to shut down, re-build, and restart one of these massive coal-fired boilers each year. I marvel that these mega machines have been in existence for over 30 years...and that there are still some original pieces of equipment in operation. Some of these original pieces are crucial components to the production of the electricity that we continue to send down the line to our customers. The longevity and reliability of the Intermountain Power Project (IPP) is truly remarkable.

Over the past several weeks, I have been able to discuss some core elements of the IPSC Health and Safety program with an intern named Sara. Sara has recently completed her studies at BYU-Idaho and will receive her degree in Occupational Safety and Health soon. Throughout the duration of the outage, Sara has been working side by side with the IPSC Safety Section and gaining real-life experience that she can use to enhance her skills as a safety professional. During one of our discussions, I asked Sara about some of the differences she has observed between the reality of working at a large industrial power production facility and her studies of safety and health. She said,

“I’ve learned that although all industries should comply with OSHA regulations, each company has different needs, involving different aspects of the work. Among the many subjects we are taught in classes, practical things like the importance of training and being able to see

beyond the rule to execution are left for the internship.

“Out of all [of] the things I’ve been able to learn under the direction of Safety Supervisor Brett Wardle and Safety Specialist James Dean, my favorite is the 150+ scaffolding projects and inspections that have been done throughout the outage time.”

I found Sara’s perspective of IPSC and its employees intriguing. When she has been able to interact with employees in the field, Sara has noticed that the culture at IPSC is truly safety minded. She praised the humility and willingness of everyone from the supervisors to the frontline employees in helping her learn what and what not to do regarding safe practices. She has seen firsthand the significance of confined space entry.

“After doing hundreds of air checks, I’ve learned that depending on where they are located and the conditions they’re found, different rules may apply as to whether they are permit required, non-permit required, or alternate entry. I don’t want you to think that I didn’t learn anything at school. To the contrary, it is because I studied that I can see the differences and understand how it can apply in different ways and circumstances.”

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety and health guidelines (2016), there are seven core elements that can help develop and maintain a successful safety and health process.

## Education to Real-life Application—Casey Draper and Sara Wetzel (cont.)

**Management Leadership:** Managers and leaders at all levels within an organization make safety and health a core organizational value, establish safety and health goals and objectives, provide adequate resources and support for the program, while emphasizing a strong safety ethic.

**Employee Participation:** Workers are involved in all aspects of the safety process—including setting goals, identifying and reporting hazards, investigating incidents, and tracking progress to ensure the sustainability of the process.

**Hazard Identification and Assessment:** An initial assessment of existing hazards, exposures, and control measures is followed by periodic inspections and reassessments to identify new hazards.

**Hazard Prevention and Control:** Employers and workers cooperate to identify and select methods for eliminating, preventing, or controlling workplace hazards. Controls are selected according to a hierarchy that uses engineering solutions first, followed by safe work practices, administrative controls, and finally personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Education and Training:** All workers are trained to recognize workplace hazards and to understand the control measures that have been implemented. All workers are trained to understand how the safety process works and how to carry out their responsibilities.

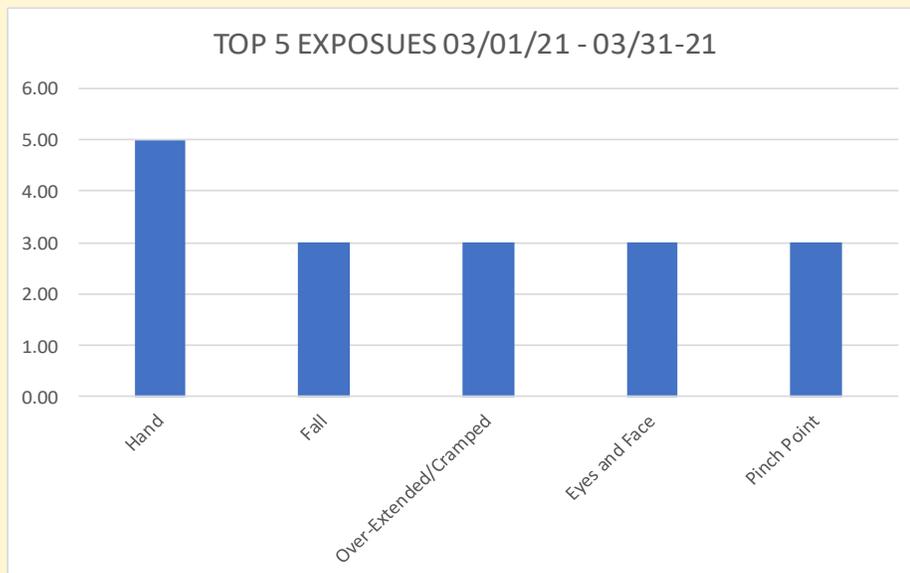
**Program Evaluation and Improvement:** Assessments are used to monitor process performance, verify process implementation, and identify process shortcomings and opportunities for improvement. Necessary actions are taken to improve the program and the overall safety and health performance.

**Communication and Coordination for Host Employers, Contractors, and Staffing Agencies:** Host employers, contractors, and staffing agencies communicate the hazards present at the worksite and develop action plans to help mitigate the hazards that contract workers may encounter on site.

Throughout the history of IPP, there has been a tremendous effort to structure and staff the corporation to provide safe, economic, and dependable operation and maintenance of the IPP facility. With continued efforts from everyone at IPSC, these core elements can remain part of our safety culture and not merely be perceived as a “flavor of the month.” By emphasizing a proactive approach to managing workplace safety and health, IPSC employees can sustain the longevity of our safety process for the duration of IPP.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (2016). OSHA Publication 3885: Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs. Retrieved from [https://www.osha.gov/shpguidelines/docs/OSHA\\_SHP\\_Recommended\\_Practices.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/shpguidelines/docs/OSHA_SHP_Recommended_Practices.pdf).

## VOLTS Data Report—Casey Draper



### IPSC Employee Contact Rate

1.52

### IPSC Employee Observation Quality



*What's your why?*

Do an observation today!