

VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

March 2018

Scott Aagard, Facilitator

Volume 52



Outage Time

Outage season is fast approaching and IPSC employees are gearing up to meet the unique challenges that come with it. We have a skilled and dedicated workforce who always rise to the occasion and efficiently accomplish any and all tasks that need to be performed. Although the scope of work is huge and limited by time constraints, the #1 priority is to make sure that hazards are recognized and that the job is performed safely. The greatest accomplishment that can be realized during the outage is that every employee is able to go home safe and well to his/her family at the end of each day. Working together as a team to accomplish that goal allows us to watch out for each other by identifying exposures and finding solutions to perform work as safely and efficiently as possible. Please don't be afraid to speak up and offer suggestions, concerns, and solutions to safety issues.



The VOLTS Steering Committee identified several hazard exposures that are always prevalent during an outage. They deserve consideration year-round, but require special focus during the outage. The areas suggested by the Committee are:

- ✓ Fall Protection
- ✓ Confined Space
- ✓ Stretching—Muscle Strain
- ✓ Pre-job Inspection
- ✓ Hazard Communication
- ✓ Energy Isolation—Tagging
- ✓ Being Aware of Temporary Employees and Helping Them to Be Safe
- ✓ Hand Protection
- ✓ Lift Safety
- ✓ Texting While Walking or Working
- ✓ Correct Selection and Use of Tools

These are just a few of the general concerns that should be considered carefully during the outage. Individual crews are strongly encouraged to identify and address potential hazard exposures that are specific to their particular areas and outage tasks. Please take time in crew meetings to discuss these issues and develop a plan to avoid or mitigate the chance of injury to yourselves and others.

In keeping with DEKRA's (VOLTS program consultant) recommendation to revisit safety definitions, this month's installment focuses on Safety Procedures. Keep in mind that these definitions are a result of studying injuries that occurred to IPSC employees during past years.

4.0	Procedures	
4.1	Energy Source Isolated	Is the source of electrical energy isolated and locked out when working on electrical equipment? If/When required to work on energized equipment (troubleshooting, adjustments, other) does employee ensure others do <u>not</u> have access to equipment controls and hazard zone(s)? Are mechanical energy sources such as springs blocked and locked before working in the affected area? Does the person attempt to start/operate equipment prior to beginning work? Has the equipment been isolated at the main energy source?
4.2	Confined Space	Has the confined space been prepared for entry according to the Confined Space Entry Permit? Is the appropriate permit displayed? Is the space certified to be free of toxic gases? Is the person wearing the appropriate respirator and tending equipment? Is entry equipment present and in good working condition? Is the Confined Space Attendant in place at point of entry and in communication with entrants?
4.3	Communication of Hazards	Are people involved in a task able to see and/or hear each other? Do people communicate about the work being performed and the potential hazards? Are appropriate signs or signals being used if people cannot hear each other? Do people carry and use portable communications equipment when appropriate?
4.4	Pre-Job Inspection/Briefing	Do the employees conduct a discussion before starting work outlining the tasks anticipated, the exposures that they expect, and how they will work safely managing and mitigating those exposures? Do they pause work and conduct another discussion when unexpected exposures are encountered?
4.5	Hot Work	Does the person have the appropriate permit, shields, barriers, and fire guard present and in place?

By studying and becoming familiar with these definitions, we can recognize behaviors that have caused accidents and injuries in the past at IPSC. Take precautions to avoid repeating those behaviors. Be proactive toward safety by learning from past mistakes and changing at-risk situations to safe ones. The entire list of VOLTS definitions can be found in WORD under **E** the tab.



Morgan Christensen
New VOLTS Facilitator

Welcome to Morgan Christensen as the new VOLTS Facilitator. The structure of the program is designed to rotate the Facilitator and Steering Committee members regularly in order to provide fresh ideas and perspectives. This will also give more employees an opportunity to participate in administering the program. Morgan will do a fantastic job in his new role.

The outage provides a prime opportunity to work together to ensure that everyone goes home safely. By combining wisdom borne of years of experience from seasoned employees, along with fresh ideas and enthusiasm from newer employees, we have enormous potential to overcome any challenges that may be encountered. Let's do everything we can to make this the safest outage ever.

Thanks for all you do!

