

VICE PRESIDENTS, AREA OPERATIONS
MANAGER, CAPITAL METRO OPERATIONS
DISTRICT MANAGERS
PLANT MANAGERS

AREA COORDINATORS, APWU
PRESIDENTS, APWU

SUBJECT: Joint Labor-Management Safety and Health Committees (APWU)

The National APWU/USPS Safety and Health Committee recently discussed the importance of ensuring that area and local committees are meeting regularly and actively working to address safety and health issues as required by the national agreement.

The national agreement between the APWU and USPS requires that safety and health committees be established at the area and local levels and meet at least quarterly. Joint committees have considerable potential for resolving unsafe conditions. Management, union, and employees, through their representatives, can all become actively involved in and make positive contributions to the Postal Service's safety and health program. Safety and health committees provide the parties with a valuable tool to demonstrate commitment to employee safety and health and to work cooperatively to improve safety performance.

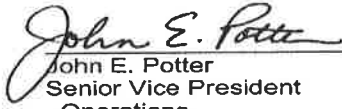
Both the American Postal Workers Union and the Postal Service again reinforced the importance of providing a safe and healthful workplace for all postal employees when they agreed to the Correction of Unsafe Conditions MOU. Local committees should review and discuss the progress in accident prevention and elimination of unsafe conditions and recommend safety and health program areas which should have increased emphasis.

Both the area and local safety and health committees can also review the national and local history of OSHA citations for the most common violations and work together to correct potential unsafe conditions.


Local committees could also monitor and work to improve the process for handling employee reports of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions (PS Form 1767). A prompt response and resolution of reported safety hazards will significantly reduce the potential for incurring accidents or injuries. For example, egress issues, such as clearly marked aiseways, posting signs not to block aisles, exits, or fire extinguishers, could be corrected by action plans developed and implemented by local committees.

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Our collective goal is to make these committees an effective tool. Accordingly, please ensure that the area and local safety and health committees have the commitment and support necessary to resolve issues effectively in accordance with the spirit and intent of our national agreement.



John E. Potter
Senior Vice President
Operations
U.S. Postal Service
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Date



Moe Biller
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