



## TWU 555 Safety & Health Committee

To: Jesse Soto, Safety & Health Advisor  
From: Rob Castilleja, Safety & Health Committee  
Date: 17 June 2009  
Subject: DTW

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Safety Representative Marcus Watkins, Committee Member Steve Riley and, I took the following issues and concerns to the DTW monthly safety meeting for discussion and resolution. In attendance at the meeting were: Manager Lawrence Barber, Manager Joni Taylor, Corporate Safety Specialist Sal Padilla, Safety Supervisor Mike Wright, Alternate & Safety Rep Mike Pierson, and CSA Carol Campbell. The entire walk around list will be in the meeting minutes but we did address the following items for a follow up response.

- Gate 21 wheelchair lift gate has been torn off. An operations agent informed us that a wheelchair fell out during operation of the lift. We requested immediate action be taken to fix the lift. Since we did not want to completely take away the only lift in this work area, we asked for chains be installed on the basket to keep items from falling out until the gate could be put back on as soon as possible. Local management agreed to have this done by that afternoon. Not only was this not done as agreed, but by the next day in the afternoon the work had still not been done including the temporary fix. Marcus then tagged out the lift. Our duties are difficult to do without the proper equipment. Employees will now have to carry large and heavy items long distances. Since the lift is now out of service, this takes agent's help away from the flight. **This should clearly tell you where local management's commitment to safety is at DTW. OSHA 1910.23**
- T point emergency stop control panels have a sharp metal plate that is a cut hazard as agent's lean inward to lift bags off the carousel. This has been an issue for some time now. Putting protective padding around the metal plate is an easy fix that has been previously recommended by Marcus. The bar holding the E stop plate attached can be easily cut or moved back slightly and still be in OSHA compliance. **General Duty Clause 5(a)(1)**
- The emergency escape plan routes are non existent; SRS have been on file since 4-26-09. **OSHA 1910.38**
- The Jet way air vents have still not been cleaned. This hazard also is unresolved as noted on SRS # 78 since 5-14-09.
- SRS # 194 has not been resolved yet. What is SRS # 194 about? It refers to the filters not being dated for installation and next cartridge change due date. This is an easy fix that has yet to be corrected.

- The cargo bay door is not properly sealed. This is creating a slip, trip, and fall hazard when it rains or snows. An employee has been injured due to this hazard already. This issue was submitted as an SRS and closed out by the Corporate Safety Department. It was also discussed at previous monthly meetings and documented as an open item by the local safety committee. **OSHA 1910.22(a)**
- Pest control continues to be of great concern. Lawrence responded that the pest control company will be called on an “as needed bases”. We strongly recommend Team DTW have regular scheduled exterminations to proactively prevent pests and rodents from becoming a problem. **OSHA 1910.141(a)(5)**

There is a lack of confidence by our employees in DTW leadership’s responsibility to promptly correct issues and concerns reported by TWU. If you will review all the SRR’s/ SRS’s and monthly minutes for the last few months to current date you will see why. The local manger appears to have no desire to attend a monthly scheduled safety meeting. This has occurred the last six months. Local employees want to have a strong safety committee in DTW. Local management must correct the “easy fix items”, as well as, utilize other company resources to get the tougher items resolved in a timely manner. When management does this, they will demonstrate to all that safety is priority one. Workplace hazards must be reduced and eliminated to ensure the continued success of our company and protect all employees and reflect leadership’s commitment.

I was most impressed to witness Marcus conduct a professional and well organized joint safety meeting. Marcus, Mike Pierson, and Steve Riley are to be commended for their interest in workplace safety and health. I thank the TWU 555 Union members at DTW for all their hard work.

Should you have any questions or comments please contact me at 214-334-4295 or [r.castilleja@twu555.org](mailto:r.castilleja@twu555.org).

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