



TWU 555 Safety & Health Committee

To: Jesse Soto, Safety & Health Advisor
From: Rob Castilleja, Safety & Health Committee
Date: 27 January 2010
Subject: OMA Safety Visit

The purpose of this visit was at the request of Station/Safety Rep Jean Moreno for training duties as a new Safety Rep. We offer the following list as current safety and health issues from our audit.

The first item I noticed as we went ramp side was the old Provo Stands still being used. These stands are OSHA non-compliant due to lack of fall protection. We tagged both stands out of service and informed Manager Paul Jensen immediately of this hazard. We also put a call in to Jesse Soto and Scott Sergeant for guidance. The obvious concern is the potential of improper fall protection for employees **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.23**, but some where the communication for these stands to be taken out of service and replaced was dropped and could have cost our company hefty fines for 2 repeat offenses on a company settlement with OSHA.

The next concern is the ground service air cradles are left fully extended out along the safety envelope without being latched and locked in place. (*Picture attached*) With the aircraft damage that has already occurred of air hose ingestions this practice must stop immediately. (**G.O.M. 06.040.21 Gate Services – Coordinator**)

There is still concern from agents on the movement of aircraft and not enough staffing for a wing walker to be available when repositioning aircraft for RON'S. During our break room meetings we discussed the importance of not moving the aircraft until the supervisor has ensured there is a wing walker available and in place; often times staffing is short and agents cannot find an agent to wing walk. (**G.O.M. 05.190.00 Preparing for Departure**)

There is concern from agents that some supervisors and station leadership may not be taking safety seriously. We discussed this concern at the closing with Paul and Ramp Supervisor Robert Vance. All employees have to do their part to keep a safe and healthful work environment. The agents must follow the training and policies put in place and leadership should monitor and make appropriate corrections when needed and also lead by example. Discipline is not being advocated rather consistent communication of expectations so that as a company we can reduce and eliminate accidents and injuries.

Equipment

- Lav truck – left reverse light not working, no horn
- Not all the equipment has letter number identification, example Open Cart 23 = OC 23
- Tug 3 - left front headlight out, heater defrost for windshield not working
- Beltloader 3- right headlight out, left headlight pointing outward, no brake lights, no reverse lights
- Beltloader 4 – idle is too fast
- OC 2 & 3 - brakes do not hold
- OC 10 - tongue is old heavy type and drops all the way to ground potentially crushing a foot
- OC 12 – brakes need to be adjusted
- High Speed Tug – left reverse light is out

Facilities

- T point – there is what appears to be a phone box with exposed wiring and the panel door is sitting on the ground right next to it. *(Pictures attached)*
- Jetway 17 – Ops agent informed us the joystick control sometimes moves the jetway slow and other times fast. The concern is aircraft damage.
- Ticket counter – though this is not one of our work areas for TWU 555, Customer Service Agents asked for assistance on requesting anti fatigue mats. We know these mats are not a requirement to provide but, we as a company want all our hard working employees to have the best tools to safely and efficiently do the job all while minimizing aches and pains.
- We could not find a spill kit cart during our walk around. I recommended to Paul they take a closed cart and put all the proper products in it to quickly respond to an environmental spill in our work areas. I also recommended they put signage on front and back clearly identifying this kit and inform all agents of the purpose and location of the spill kit cart.
- The Provo room ice machine is in extremely poor condition. The residue of corrosion is so apparent I don't know how it was not noticed. The white residue is oozing down the outsides and insides of the machine. The bin door has no seal as it is worn out. I informed Paul this machine should be tagged out, but if he could get it serviced right away that would be better. *(Pictures attached)*. **Note: I called Jean 1-28-10 and asked him to check and see if the ice machine was serviced and if not to tag it out.**
- The ice machine water filter did not have a change date on it though we found an old one thrown on the ground with a date of about 6 months ago. The last log entry that was provided to us had a date of 2008 as the last date changed. I want to stress that our traveling public, flight crews, and employees with their families are being served ice in our drinks from OMA. **F.D.A violation F.D.A. Focus November 2009 attached Ice machines item 2**
- There are a lot of product boxes such as snacks on the ground and a fire extinguisher is being blocked by this mess. *(Picture attached)* **F.D.A Focus November 2009 Food Handling/Food storage areas item 6**

We thank the GSE crew from MDW that was in the station on the day of our visit. They took the list of items needing to be fixed and began working on it right away. There is a concern for the new deicing trucks that seem to need a lot more work than the previous trucks OMA had.

Our closing with Paul and Robert went well as the above list was received with a can do attitude. We discussed the importance of the manager committing the time to do the monthly safety walk with Jean so that both the company and the Union can equally see what current issues and concerns need attention. This action will help ensure all employees have a safe and healthful work environment, injuries and accidents are reduced and eliminated and, our great company stays profitable,

I want to also thank the TWU 555 members for all the hard work they do and Jean for his interest in workplace safety and health. For questions or comments please contact me at 214-334-4295 or r.castilleja@twu555.org.

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