



## Local 3657

### Health, Safety and Environment Committee

#### June 2016 Report

From the June 20, 2016 meeting of the Joint Safety and Health Committee:

## Building Emergency Evacuation Plan

The administration gave us a list of the Floor Wardens along with a list of those who might need assistance in the case of a building evacuation. These lists appear to us not to be updated. Please check out the attached list of floor wardens and notify the Purchasing and Travel Department (Jen Pfeiffer) to let them know of any corrections that should be made. The administration will post this on every floor. *You should also let Jen Pfeiffer know if you would require assistance in the case of a building evacuation.*

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

We discussed the heavy **exhaust fumes** around the elevator shaft and suggested that the AC be kept on 24/7. The administration assured us that they are doing it and will continue to do so. The situation seems to be resolved.

**Black dirt** had been accumulating within the air vents on the walls. The administration stated that they will set a schedule of “routine cleaning” of these vents.

The **temporary ramp** problems: It’s too steep, is missing a handrail free of splinters, and there wasn’t a threshold. The administration had the bottom of the ramp beveled and that works as a resolution. The administration said that “at this

point we have no plans to make a change” to the hand rail. They offered to make “reasonable accommodations” to those in need.

It was suggested that holes be drilled in the flat areas of the ramp where water accumulates. The administration took this suggestion into consideration.

The **dust problem in the Print Shop** is much abated but when dust masks had been requested earlier this year, the masks provided were simply ordered off of Amazon. When we suggested that in the future, HSE professional staff should be utilized so that PPE is appropriate and that proper fit testing is done per OSHA requirements, the administration replied that Rick Davis, print shop manager, approved the dust masks. In the future, we will continue to press for HSE involvement.

We requested a **schedule of construction** and were told that the garage should be completed by the end of September. The plaza should be completed by the end of December.

On March 15th, USW members working in the Ameriserv Bank, cleaners and guards were told by management not to speak with Local 3657 members or the HSE Dept. staff about any adverse health and safety conditions they experience in the building, but rather to go straight to the building manager or to go to their own local unions. The administration told us that “**someone misspoke**” and that local union members have the right to go to their own locals and that any USW member has the right to speak directly to the USW HSE department.

# WATER SAFETY ISSUE:

**BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM:** Since March 2, 2016 when the administration first notified our local of the presence of Legionella in the building's hot water system, we requested that we be kept apprised of the water's safety. We also made numerous requests for water analyses reports. Yet, the administration has been only partially responsive to our repeated requests. Given that water we received results indicated that *Legionella pneumophila, serogroup 5* was present in our water system, high risk individuals, such as smokers, those with asthma, COPD, weakened immune systems or other health conditions, face the possibility of contracting Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac fever. A large number of our members, as well as other USW staff, could be in danger of becoming ill if exposed to the bacteria. Therefore, our committee is taking this issue very seriously.

**SHOWERS:** The administration turned the showers back on but posted that they are for the use of building engineers only. We do not know if these showers are clear of the bacteria.

**AERATED FAUCETS:** The sinks on some floors have aerated, low-flow faucets which aerosolize the water, causing water droplets to spray into the breathing zone of those using the sink, particularly individuals who are short or in a wheelchair. We proposed replacing all aerators with those that don't spray.

**FAILURE TO PROVIDE TEST RESULTS:** Despite repeated verbal and written requests for water test results, management has failed to provide data from the March 2016 tests. Given their refusal to provide the missing data, our committee has determined that we need to file an OSHA complaint under Standard # 1910.1020 to gain "access to employee exposure records..."

**AFTER THE MEETING:** Bob Rootes followed up and went to look at the sink aerator in Strategic Campaigns. Ginger Hartman called Diane Heminway in to her office for a private meeting, and offered her a copy of the missing results "for your eyes only.." Diane refused them, because she would not agree to keep them confidential.

*We have the signed OSHA complaint here, and invite you to add your signature.*

## USW Local 3657 Health, Safety and Environment Committee members, June 2016:

Steffi Domike, convener (Education)  
Deb Edwards (Collective Bargaining)  
Lawrence Goun (Collective Bargaining)  
Diane Heminway (Strategic Campaigns)  
Janet Hill (Collective Bargaining)  
John Lepley, ex-officio (Education)  
Julie Lidstone (Collective Bargaining)  
Lynda Nathenson (Political)  
Sharon Thompson (Health & Safety)

USW Floor Wardens

Updated 6/20/2016

Floor	Name	Location	Extension	Email
7	Billy Eakin	Membership Development	2447	<a href="mailto:weakin@usw.org">weakin@usw.org</a>
7	Lynda Nathenson	Rapid Response	2291	<a href="mailto:lnathenson@usw.org">lnathenson@usw.org</a>
7	Eric Russell	Political	1192	<a href="mailto:erussell@usw.org">erussell@usw.org</a>
8	Paul Janus	Personnel	2385	<a href="mailto:pjanus@usw.org">pjanus@usw.org</a>
8	Aaron Hudson	Communications	2448	<a href="mailto:ahudson@usw.org">ahudson@usw.org</a>
8	Tony Montana	Communications	2592	<a href="mailto:tmontana@usw.org">tmontana@usw.org</a>
8	Christine Patberg	Legal	2542	<a href="mailto:cpatberg@usw.org">cpatberg@usw.org</a>
9	Chris Taylor	Purchasing and Travel	2483	<a href="mailto:ctaylor@usw.org">ctaylor@usw.org</a>
9	Steve Sallman	Health and Safety	259D	<a href="mailto:ssallman@usw.org">ssallman@usw.org</a>
9	Emily Jefferson	Women of Steel	2443	<a href="mailto:ejefferson@usw.org">ejefferson@usw.org</a>
10	Shawn Gilchrist	Strategic Campaigns	696B	<a href="mailto:sgilchrist@usw.org">sgilchrist@usw.org</a>
11	Tim Scull	Information Systems	2395	<a href="mailto:tscull@usw.org">tscull@usw.org</a>
11	Justin Allison	Information Systems	1166	<a href="mailto:jallison@usw.org">jallison@usw.org</a>
12	John Perquin	12th Floor	2328	<a href="mailto:joerquin@usw.org">joerquin@usw.org</a>
12	Matt Becker	12th Floor	2522	<a href="mailto:mbecker@usw.org">mbecker@usw.org</a>
Basement	Kevin Mltink	Printshop	2455	<a href="mailto:kmltnik@usw.org">kmltnik@usw.org</a>

