

You are Power420

by Roger Rodriguez

ANYONE OF US would feel terrible if we saw something unsafe and said nothing, only to learn an injury had taken place later. I know we all care about ourselves, our coworkers, and our families who depend on us to come home safe each day and be ready to be a part of their lives.

We also shouldn't count on others to ensure our safety.

Power 420 is a Local 420 designed, owned, and run Safety Observation Program. The cards, process, and program were developed and rolled out by our very own members. The computer tracking program was written and programmed by our members. The entire Power 420 team is made up of volunteers, and the team continues to grow. Your Power 420 representatives are dedicated to safety and are advocates for everyone.

Power 420 has made it through the roll out process at all of our WE facilities in 2014. The development of our own Safety Program was a great accomplishment for our Local. We are committed to be your advocates for safety, but it will take your participation to make it work.

Any member of local 420 can do an observation simply by asking a group that is performing a task, ask a coworker to observe them, or by doing a "SELF" observation as well. This is where we have gotten some of the best information concerning an unsafe or safe condition.

To collect the information, the observer can carry in their pocket the handy POWER 420 tri-fold brochure while doing any task. We also just recently added the form to the front page of Local 420 website in the Learn More tab of our dedication to safety.

On the form or through the website, simply write down or enter the "DATE" of the task, the "TIME", and your "NAME" if you desire but is not required on the trifold. Understand that entering your name makes follow up possible. If you utilize the website for data collection, you will need to enter your name and email address to ensure it gets to the union office.

Next is the "TYPE of ACTIVITY", was an "ISOLATION REQUIRED" and was this task done by "OPERATOR" or "MECHANIC". Moving on to "CRITICAL BEHAVIORS" just check off if the task as "SAFE", "AT RISK" or "NOT ACCABLE", in the listings of "PPE", "EQUIPMENT/TOOLS", "BODY MECHANICS", "HOUSE KEEPING" AND LASTLY "JOB FACTORS".

You can also give your own feedback by filling in the sections titled "CONCERNS", "RECOMMENDATIONS", "BEST PRACTICE",

or "POSITIVE FEEDBACK". If the Observer finds an unsafe condition, they can create a work order if needed, or contact a POWER 420 team member for further discussion, help, or action.

When the observation is completed, just drop the Tri-Fold into any one of POWER 420 drop boxes located at your facility or submit it through the website.

Our 420 Observation team then collects the data, and looks them over for any actions needed. The team then meets monthly to look over the Tri-Fold information. We read each one aloud, record the information that is safe or unsafe, and work to correct any safety concerns. All observations are kept completely confidential and storage of all cards is at the Local 420 office.

As more of the POWER 420 Observations are collected the better information we have of unsafe/safe conditions. A few of the POWER 420 accomplishments at our WE worksites are:

- Cooling tower Tie-Off Points.
- P-4 getting the difficult to reach Boiler Drain valves on the N/E corner of Unit-1 Elevation 105' moved to a good location.
- The purchase of the Miller Edge Safety Tie Off device for when there is not an area for safety harness tie off.
- P-4 two ladders installed in the Fly Ash Reburn Room where there were no ladders for safe access and we all had to climb over the rails to enter the area.
- P-4 a power tugger for moving the old oil cart in the tractor shed, this was pulled by hand before.
- Amber flashing warning lights being installed at chemical delivery locations to warn people when unloading is process.
- Training has been updated and/or added.
- It has opened a venue to have discussions on housekeeping and other safety issues.
- Getting Booster fan hub stairs updated and installed.

These are just a few of the items the team has worked on. The main point is no one knows our jobs better than we do, and the best way to get things done is through the POWER 420 Job Site safety observation program.

This Power420 program is used to guide all of us in making our plants a safer place to work. We need to continue to look out for each other and ourselves. Stay safe, stay productive, and always stay Safety Strong. ■