

A Safety Note from Your Cooperative



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Hmmm, What Are They Up To?

Sometimes what we see, is NOT what we see. Let me explain.

Have you ever seen our crews standing in a “huddle”? If so, did you think to yourself, “why aren’t they working instead of just standing around?” To a person driving by or looking out their window, it appears they aren’t working. But, they are! In fact, they are doing one of the most important tasks of their job – they are participating in a tailgate or job briefing. So, why do they take the time to do this every day?

To Follow OSHA Standards

Our crews are following OSHA standards when they conduct a job briefing. 29 CFR 1910.269(c)(1)(ii) states, “The employer shall ensure that the employee in charge conducts a job briefing that meets paragraphs (c)(2), (c)(3), and (c)(4) of this section with the employees involved before they start each job.” Those sections then describe how the job briefing will be completed.

During the job briefing, OSHA then spells out that the person conducting the job briefing needs to cover these five items.

1. hazards associated with the job,
2. work procedures involved,
3. special precautions,
4. energy-source controls, and
5. personal protective equipment requirements.

Also interesting, OSHA even describes how to do a job briefing when working alone.

To Save a Life

Yet, more importantly, our crews conduct a job briefing because it is a critical task to engage all crew members in a conversation about the job they are about to start. Our crews do job briefings:

- To discuss potential hazards unique to this job.
- To describe the work that will be done and by whom; assign tasks.
- To review emergency actions if something goes wrong.
- To confirm everyone can give the location if there is an emergency.
- To check over the personal protective equipment people have and if it is in good condition.
- To give everyone on the crew a chance to ask questions.
- To review the safety rules associated with the particular job.
- To remind the crew they can stop the job anytime if they feel unsafe.



Simply put, a job briefing is a safe work practice we use every day at the co-op to make sure we can all go home tonight. It’s a critical task that saves lives.

So, what do you see? You see safety!