



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

JANE R. FLANAGAN
DIRECTOR

Warehouse Safety Standards Task Force MINUTES

Date: July 18, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)
Birger Hall and Via Video Conference

Call to Order: 10:06 a.m.
Jane Flanagan, Director of IDOL

Roll Call of Board Members:

Present: Director Jane Flanagan, Anna Brown, Sen. Erica Harriss, Scott Kunkel (video), Sen. Seth Lewis, Rep. Kevin Olickal (video), Mayor Art Risavy, Rep. Katie Stuart, Marcos Cenicerros (video)

Others Present: Cope family members: Alexandra Cope, Carla Pope, Lynn Pope. Greg Bryant, Lynn Vasquez, Gabriela Garza, Alec Laird, Staff from Rep. Katie Stuart's office
Staff from IDOL: Anna Koeppel, Erik Kambarian, Elizabeth Guerrero, Paul Cicchini, Andrew Fox
Staff from SIUE
Alec Laird, Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Gabriela Garza, Illinois Manufacturers Association
Lynn Vasquez, Masonry Institute of Southern Illinois

Quorum established

New Business:

Introduction by Chancellor of SIUE

Welcoming remarks and appreciation of advocacy of victim's families.
James T. Minor, Chancellor

Comments by Mayor of Edwardsville, Art Risavy

Acknowledgment of honor and responsibility to serve on the task force. We are here to listen and learn. Welcome to the City of Edwardsville.

Comments by Rep. Katie Stuart

History of establishment and formation of the Task Force

Lincoln Tower Plaza
524 South 2nd Street, Suite 400
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 782-6206
Fax: (217) 782-0596

Michael A Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle, Suite C-1300
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3150
(312) 793-2800
Fax: (312) 793-5257

Regional Office Building
2309 West Main Street, Suite 115
Marion, Illinois 62959
(618) 993-7090
Fax: (618) 993-7258

Toured the devastation with the Governor and other local elected officials.

Looked at building codes

Took this as a charge that we had to do something

Procedures and policies of warehouses

Task Force is a means to gather information and help to change

Introduction of Members, Guests, and IDOL Staff

In-person and virtual

Presentation by the Cope family: Carla Cope, mother of Clayton Cope (deceased)

Clayton was one of six who died after a tornado struck Amazon in Edwardsville on

December 10, 2021

Look forward to seeing how this this task force will be used to better protect workers

Presentation by Chief of Edwardsville Fire Department, James Whiteford

See attachment.

Audio and video presentation of the path of tornado and emergency response, and Chief's three recommendations (attached.)

1. Support the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System
2. Lobby building code bodies to expand storm shelter requirements
3. Support smaller communities in hiring of code enforcement staff (including grant funding.)

Questions from attendees:

- Tilt up construction
- MABAS described post 9/11, enables responders to look at state holistically, funding discussed as state and federal
- Recommendations of Chief Whiteford were discussed, and IDOL committed to forwarding those to Members
- Comments regarding storm shelters within warehouses
- Discussion of building codes in various counties

Comments by Director Jane Flanagan

Let's discuss how the Task Force could best focus our efforts. Perhaps we could divide our focus into three boxes:

1. Structural safety and building codes
2. Warehouses' internal policies and procedures, protocols for emergencies, shelters, multiple employers on site.
3. Emergency response agencies, procedures, responses

Comment by Lynn Vasquez

Our organization would love to present on storm shelters in future

Comment by Alec Laird

Chief touches on the subject of large distribution centers which are in different municipalities with different building codes. It would be helpful to have a consistent path forward, and consistent structural codes.

Comment by Chief Whiteford

The owner of the facility may lease it to a tenant that uses the building for something other than what it was built for. It's built as a spec warehouse and then is leased out for manufacturing, so it was not intended for manufacturing.

Comment by Rep. Katie Stuart

Cities should not compete against each other and have more consistency across the state. Would be helpful to our mayors, and show that Illinois cares about cities across the state.

Comment by Architect Scott Kunkel

Would like to focus on the second set of recommendation by the Chief, and concur with the Chief, very challenging to design buildings for worst-case wind situations like this. Lot of merit in the consideration of comprehensive use of supplement shelters within structures, standardization of design so that they can be more practicable and predictable.

Public observer comment

Placement of storm shelters within facility so that it is easily accessible to workers, and structural standards so that someone doesn't have to traverse a building to get to a shelter

Comment by Director Jane Flanagan

Warehouse vs manufacturing – structure could be same size but manufacturing traditionally involves more people and zoned differently.

Response from Scott Kunkel

Most structural codes don't rely on occupant loads for structural requirements. Occupant loads usually affect egress requirements and similar.

Question by Director Jane Flanagan

Can we agree on following areas of focus?

1. Structural safety
2. Policies and procedures, recommendations
3. Emergency responses

Votes Taken:

1. Vote taken to agree that Task Force would focus on three aforementioned areas
Motion by Scott Kunkel
Seconded
Motion passed
2. Motion to issue quarterly reports due to Governor and General Assembly
IDOL will circulate Minutes
Motion made

Seconded
Motion passed

3. Motion to host quarterly meeting, different areas of the state

Seconded
Motion passed

Question about where to host next meeting was raised:

Member Marcos Cenicerros offered to host next meeting in hybrid format in Joliet

Vote on Bylaws was discussed:

Motion made to adopt Bylaws
Seconded
Draft Bylaws were adopted by unanimous vote

Public Comment:

Director Jane Flanagan opened the floor to public comment
No public comments were received

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.