



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

JANE R. FLANAGAN
DIRECTOR

Warehouse Safety Standards Task Force

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 30, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: In-person: Lincoln Tower Plaza, 524 S. 2nd Street., Springfield, IL
Virtual: By webinar via video conference connection (video)

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m.

Jane Flanagan, Director of IDOL (Chair), introduced IDOL OSHA Division Chief, Erik Kambarian, to discuss safety exits.

Roll Call of Task Force Members:

Members Present:

Jane Flanagan, Illinois Department of Labor, Director (Chair)
Senator Rachel Ventura (video)
Alec Laird (representing retail merchants)
Representative Dan Ugaste
Scott Kunkel representing manufacturers (video)
Senator Seth Lewis (video)
Representative Kevin Olickal (video)
Representative Katie Stuart
Marcos Cenicerros (representing warehouse workers) (video)
Senator Erica Harriss
Senator Chris Belt (video)
Anna Brown (representing American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations)

Quorum established

Others Present:

Clayton Cope family members: Lynn (video), Carla (video), Alexandra, and Rachel Cope
Lisa Hennigh, Capital Development Board (video)
Abigayle Dompke, Capital Development Board (video)
Robert Coslow, Capital Development Board (video)
Scott Anderson with Rep Katie Stuart's office (video)

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Gabriela Garza, Illinois Manufacturers Association (video)
LaToya Greenwood (video)
Steph Kukuijan, St. Louis Post Dispatch (video)
James Whiteford (video)
Cathy Hensley (video)
Marc Levitan (video), National Institute of Standards and Technology
Lynn Vasquez, Masonry Institute of Southern Illinois
Bruce Augustin, Masonry Institute of St. Louis
Greg Bryant, Masonry Structural Coalition

IDOL Staff Present: Jason Keller, Assistant Director; Margaret Decker, Chief of Staff; Anna Koeppel, Legislative and Policy Director; Erik Kambarian, IDOL OSHA Division Chief; Paul Cicchini, Public Information Officer; Andrew Fox, General Counsel(video); Stephanie Barton, Deputy General Counsel; Chris Wherley, Chief Information Officer

Opening Remarks:

Director Flanagan – introduced Rep. Katie Stuart. Rep Stuart represents the area where the Edwardsville Amazon Warehouse unfortunate incident occurred and would like the committee to keep grounded and focused on structural and policy and procedural issues to keep people safe.

Approval of 11/2/23 Minutes – no changes proposed

- Motion by Rep. Stuart
- Second by Anna Brown
- Motion passed

Approval of Quarterly Report – no changes proposed

- Motion by Sen. Erica Harriss
- Second by Anna Brown
- Motion passed

New Business:

- **Expert Testimony**

Marc L. Levitan, Lead Research Engineer, National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program and National Institute of Standards and Technology – U.S. Department of Commerce

See PowerPoint “**Design for Tornadoes**” for more details of the presentation:

- Common Misconceptions
- Tornado Frequency and Location
- Illinois tornadoes
- Tornado impacts
- Storm Shelters for Life Safety Protection – FEMA or ICC 500 Requirements – does not require plumbing or running water -misconception.
- Discussion of new tornado load requirements into Standards and Building Codes

- Options for improving tornado safety

Questions and comments were raised, that included but were not limited to following topics:

- Construction types, requirements, and standards.
- Risk categories
- Communication systems
- Residential vs. Commercial

Greg Bryant, Masonry Structural Coalition –

See Presentation “Why a Structure” for more detail of presentation

- Parson Manufacturing Plant, Roanoke, IL 7/13/2004 Tornado.
- 140 people in plant, all made it to refuge structure areas and survived due to Safety Plan.
- Benefits of Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) shelters
- Determine Type and Code Requirements
- NCMA Education and Research Foundation can provide detailed design, code compliance and budget for new and existing facilities.

Questions and comments, on following topics:

- Storm Shelters v. Safe Room differences costs and codes
- Funding available and long-term savings
- Clarity of roles/responsibilities of Safety Plans

• **Comments by Cope Family:**

- Alexandra Cope: Would like to see communication be a strong part of any plan. My brother did not know where to go as many other did not and that was detrimental. Main goal safety procedures, specific protocols, for these buildings, emergency would look like, that would be family’s goal, for them to take responsibility
- Rachel Cope: We are talking about minimum standards, but big companies like Amazon will not have shelters without minimum standard requirements. They know their building structures fail in a tornado and then reconstructed the exact same building style that killed my brother. Without building minimum standard changes, no change will occur for companies like Amazon.

• **Comments by Capitol Development Board**

- Lisa Hennigh – Deputy Director of Construction spoke to the 2023 building code legislation that will apply across the state effective 1/1/2025 requiring all municipalities and counties to use baseline code, most current version. However, it does not address the tornado structure. The purpose was to address flooding and losing out on FEMA monies.

• **Board Discussion and Input**

- Director Flanagan highlighted three focus areas for the Task Force and over the next spring and summer meetings what additional experts should be considered:
 1. Structural issues
 2. Policies and procedures related to workplace safety issues

3. Emergency response
- Cope family – Would like to see Emergency Procedures be the focus for discussion. Alexandra Cope is asking to present a proposal at next meeting.
 - Sen. Ventura proposed IDOL conduct research of zoning and building code, and invite temp staff agency and/or warehouse operator to discuss training perspective
 - Rep Stuart requested clarity for building code enforcement
 - Discussion of spring, summer and fall meeting. Next Meeting – possibly week of April 8th due to legislature in session and in-person being held same location in Springfield. Poll will be sent out for date.
 - Open Meetings Act representative needed. Rep. Dan Ugaste will check with ethics officer to see if he already has the training if so, he is willing to act as OMA rep.

Public Comment:

Jane Flanagan, Director: opened the floor to public comment:

- None.

Votes Taken:

Minutes from last 11/2/23 meeting and Quarterly Report

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned: 11:42 a.m.

Motion by Sen. Erica Harriss

Second by Rep. Katie Stuart