

**September's Safety & Staff Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2026 – BCRSD Conference Room**

SAFETY IS A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Horton, Angela Gonzalez, Daniel Cunningham, Kevin Sublett, Caleb Rittenour, Rodney Spires, Elke Boyd

Safety Topic – Chainsaws: Safe Operation Basics

The first safety training focused on the basic procedures necessary for safely operating a chainsaw. The training reviewed personal safety and the appropriate protective equipment for chainsaw work, including head, eye, hearing, hand, foot, and leg protection. Employees were also reminded of the importance of inspecting the chainsaw before use, identifying damaged components or controls, and ensuring the equipment is in safe working condition before beginning a task. Safe handling and storage of fuel and proper procedures for fueling the saw were also addressed.

The training further reviewed safe starting, handling, and operating techniques. Proper grip, body positioning, balance, and maintaining control of the saw were emphasized, along with avoiding overreaching and other practices that can increase the likelihood of injury. The overall message reinforced that chainsaws present significant hazards and that appropriate PPE, equipment preparation, and disciplined operating practices are essential whenever they are used.

Accidents or Near Misses: Focus

Safety Topic – Skid Steer Loader Safety

The second safety training focused on safe operation of skid steer loaders and the hazards these compact but powerful machines can create for operators and nearby personnel. Employees reviewed the importance of having properly trained operators, inspecting the equipment and surrounding work area before operation, and ensuring that required safety devices and protective systems are functioning properly. Particular attention was given to preventing struck-by, crushing, and pinning incidents associated with skid steer operation.

The training reinforced the importance of following manufacturer operating procedures, using the operator restraint system, and remaining aware of personnel, obstacles, and changing conditions around the machine. Employees were reminded that safe skid steer operation requires attention both inside and outside the cab and that equipment should not be operated when safeguards are missing or conditions make the task unsafe. The overall message emphasized proper training, pre-operation inspection, hazard recognition, and continued situational awareness whenever skid steer loaders are being used.

Status of Safety Works-in-Progress & Annual Items: Nothing to Discuss

Other Business: Nothing to Discuss

Equipment Safety: Nothing to Discuss

Old Business: Nothing to Discuss

New Business: Nothing to Discuss

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm.