



USW LOCAL 9346 Your monthly news & updates

Welcome to our NEW newsletter format. If you are not receiving these by email please send your name, badge number and email address to admin@usw9346.ca to get on the list. If you wish to unsubscribe, please do so using the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. Please note that if you unsubscribe, you will not receive any emails from USW Local 9346 in the future, unless you ask us to re-subscribe.

Visit our Website

SUNLIFE COVID-19 FORMS are on the homepage of our website for you to download if needed.

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom. If you are interested in participating please email admin@usw9346.ca with your name, email, and badge number by Thursday, February 11 to receive an invite for this meeting.

Safety Rep Meeting - Monday, February 1 at 4:30pm



Office Hours Remain by Appt. Only

Please be advised that our office has changed back to 'By Appointment Only' hours. We are still always available by phone and email, but if you need to see us in person please make an appointment by contacting:

Scott Liddle - scottl@usw9346.ca or 250-425-4147

Troy Cook - troyc@usw9346.ca or 250-423-8742

Sarah Thompson - admin@usw9346.ca or 403-563-7369

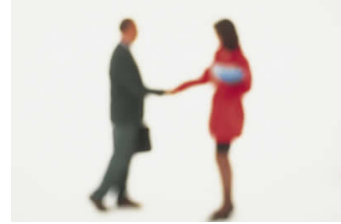


USW Organizing Committee

Please click the link below to read a letter from our local Organizer - Chad Sedrovic from FRO and our D3

Organizer Alvin Lukinchuk from Kamloops.

[USW Organizing Letter](#)



Retiree's

Congratulations to Joe Reed who retired on January 1, 2021 from the Road Crew. Joe has worked for Elkview for the last 27 years and we wish you all the best Joe.



USW Local 9346 Scholarship

USW Local 9346 offers a \$1000 scholarship to a son or daughter of one of our member's who is graduating grade 12 this year and will be enrolling into post secondary this fall. The applicant with the highest average mark - based on their supplied transcripts - will be the successful applicant. Deadline to apply is May 3, 2021.



Please click the link for the application form.

[USW 9346 Scholarship Application Form](#)

Safety Concerns Survey

Our Safety Department has developed a Safety Concerns Survey for our members to fill out. Please click the link below to take the 2 minute survey. We appreciate your time for this.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LHTGY8L>

Messages from Your Local Union Executive

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

There has been one item throughout the bargaining process that has caused great concern for your bargaining committee. The Company's complete disregard for actually trying to ensure that you will have a job when the mine site goes fully autonomous. Sure they have come up with the AOZ Guide position but that's only for 5-6 people per crew. Now do the math...that's only enough jobs for 24 people. As of Dec. 1, 2020 our records showed 256 Haul Truck Drivers...now do the math again. Do you really believe Teck will have 232 labourers on site???

The Company says its going to offer 50 apprenticeships over the next couple of years so if we factor that number in that brings us down to 182 people who are most likely going to

lose their jobs by the end of 2021.

For the last number of weeks, I have been requesting the list of contractors on site to see where we could transition some of our members too. We can do 90% of the contractor jobs with little to no training. There is absolutely no reason why this site should have contractors on it if we are planning on losing that many people. Here lies the problem... Teck is still refusing to hand over a comprehensive contractor list to the Union. The company wishes to know why the Union needs these lists ??? so they have been told in order save our member's jobs and yet they still refuse to hand over any detailed lists.

Some of you may have notice the slight change in Teck's message on saving your job due to Automation. In the beginning we were all told that there would be NO layoffs and today their message is well we will try not to lay anyone off if we can.

So, if you're in that bottom 200-250 on the seniority list you may seriously want to think about bidding into another Job / department or consider an apprenticeship because to be honest it really doesn't look like the company is going to bend over backwards to save your job.

Scott Liddle
President
USW Local 9346

Safety Chair's Message

Parking

Slips, trips, and falls. These words always seem to foreshadow any safety conversation on the mine site. We talk about them during our modified tailgates, we scribble them down in our Take 5 books, we think about them when we get on and off our equipment. But what happens when you step out of your vehicle in the parking lot and, before you know it, your feet come out from underneath you and you hit the ground? Maybe you're lucky and catch yourself. Maybe by catching yourself you tweak an arm or shoulder. Maybe you're not so lucky and you hit your head off your vehicle or the ground. No one wants to start their day like this or have a brother or sister start their day like this. No one wants this to happen at all. But it does and has in the last month.

Unfortunately, part of the problem stems from our parking habits. We have three main parking areas in our lower parking lot: dayshift, nightshift, and long term. This allows the Road Crew to remove snow in the areas that are not in use. The "No Parking" areas allow for equipment to maneuver in the lot to get this job done. This also allows for maintenance to occur on the electrical components of the parking lot. When we park in dayshift parking on nightshift or vice versa, or in short term areas when we're parking for an extended period of time, we hinder our brothers and sisters on the Road Crew. This, in turn, puts everyone using the parking lot at increased risk of an injury. Please park in the appropriate areas and allow our crews to help keep us safe!

Our parking area between the mine dry and safety buildings has become extremely congested in the last little while as well. This has led to some close calls for people on foot crossing this area and lots of frustration. If you are a worker who parks in this area, please be extra mindful of the foot traffic. Also, when walking through this area, have a look and proceed with caution. If you have any suggestions on how to make this area better, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or submit your idea to your supervisor.

NOTE: If you aren't getting text alerts and have signed up for them, please let me know! I am available anytime via text, phone, or email!

Be safe out there everyone!!

Julia McKay OH&SC Chair
juliam@usw9346.ca
250-603-9555

Grievance/WCB Chair's Message

A year into the COVID pandemic and we may be facing some of the worst few months ahead. Numbers are increasing in the Elk Valley and COVID cases are being discovered more and more in the workplace. Changes are always taking place in combating the viral surge. Legislation, especially WCB has moved to address these concerns as well as adapting scientific information as it becomes available.

While some in corporate settings like to believe they have the pandemic issues under control, it is clear with transmission events on the increase, there is always room for improvement.

As workers we have established and legislated rights to safety. These rights extend to protecting our families and communities during these difficult times. Employers have many responsibilities in ensuring not only safety for their employees but a responsibility to the employees families and community.

WCB is just one of the legislative bodies that employers must abide by. WCB has adjusted and continue to evolve during the pandemic. The responsibility of employers is one of the many issues WCB has addressed.

Employer responsibilities as outlined by WCB in part states:

***Employers** are responsible for the health and safety of their workers, and all other workers at their workplace. They are responsible for completing and posting the COVID-19 Safety Plan and to train and educate everyone at the workplace of the contents of that plan. Employers are also responsible for having a system in place to identify the hazards of COVID-19, control the risk, and monitor the effectiveness of the controls.*

WCB has also gone to steps to apply and define current legislation such as worker's Right to Refuse, as it applies to situations of COVID outbreaks in the workplace.

Worker's Right to refuse as outlined by WCB in part states:

Workers have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard.

An undue hazard is an "unwarranted, inappropriate, excessive, or disproportionate" hazard. For COVID-19, an "undue hazard" would be one where a worker's job role places them at increased risk of exposure and adequate controls are not in place to protect them from that exposure.

If the matter is not resolved, the worker and the supervisor or employer must contact WorkSafeBC. Once that occurs, a prevention officer will consult with workplace parties to determine whether there is an undue hazard and issue orders if necessary.

An important question when dealing with COVID in the workplace is the definition of work related infection. This of course is important to define in adjudicating WCB COVID claims and their validity in accordance with the new COVID legislation. COVID infection is now covered in WCB doctrines.

WCB work related policy states in part:

When could COVID-19 be work related?

When a worker contracts COVID-19 as a direct result of their employment, they are entitled to compensation if the following conditions are met:

- *Evidence that the worker has contracted COVID-19, either:
 - a medical diagnosis in a medical report, or
 - non-medical factual evidence where other evidence establishes the existence of COVID-19.*
- *The nature of the worker's employment created a risk of contracting the disease significantly greater than the ordinary exposure risk of the public at large.*

Work-related example

Acute care hospital worker, who is treating patients who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. In these cases, they are at greater risk than the general public of contracting the disease.

Claims submitted for COVID-19 contracted through a work-related exposure are adjudicated on a case-by-case basis. WorkSafeBC will look at details such as whether the worker has a diagnosis of COVID-19, their symptoms, and their employment activities. If you believe you contracted COVID-19 while at work, you may file a claim to determine if you are eligible for workers' compensation benefits.

There are many moving parts and many legislative changes and redefining occurring as we move through these days of pandemic. Three important things to remember, as listed above, are employers responsibilities, worker's rights, and the definition of work related infection. The fourth item to remember, and partake in, is good communication with our Union.

Communication with your shop stewards, safety reps, and executive enables better response to issues of infection outbreak and the atonement to issues regarding the responsibilities of the employer. Consistency in leadership by the employer varies from crew to crew, as does application of COVID policies. It is important to bring these issues to your Union as it better the overall workplace when we strive to improve safety and rights for each other.

It too is important to consider your family and loved ones especially around outbreaks of COVID in your work area. Everyone's circumstances are different and we have helped and continue to help with all issues. Co-workers who have family members with immune or health issues have an obvious responsibility to ensure they stay and out of harm's way so their loved ones stay healthy also. These considerations are one of the newer issues we have been addressing. If you have concerns please contact us. We work tirelessly to protect you and your family.

My phone is always on. (250) 423-8742. Call anytime. Stay safe, stay awesome.

Troy Cook
Grievance/Compensation Chairman
USW Local 9346
