

Safety Report

June 5, 2020

Safety Comity Chair DS Elems

Work continues around the museum, and we are continuing to do our part to observe the current health and safety guidelines for the pandemic. We typically have as many as four to six personnel on site so keeping our distance has been pretty easy while we go about our projects. We have received some more cleaning and sanitation supplies, so keeping up with wiping down the common areas and washing our hands hasn't been an issue but as stated above we typically max out around six people on site; the exception being when we had the WP165 work session at the end of May. Luckily everyone had their assigned projects and social distancing wasn't an issue for the volunteers.

Temperatures are on the rise, though this weekend seems like it may be an exception. At any rate, we are keeping the crew fridge at the west end of the shop stocked with water so personnel can stay hydrated; we ask the volunteers clean their hands before getting into it and rummaging around.

In addition to my slow progress on the locomotive fleet, switching, and the recent work on cleaning the shop I've been looking over the oil separator feed lines from the pan/water risers and the shop; a good cleaning is in order. In addition to the powdered microbial packets for the separator itself, I'll also be getting some liquid bio-remediator for cleaning the inspection pit and associated drain lines. Currently the west cleanout in the pit has about six or more inches of water in it that isn't draining or evaporating, and it had become a stagnant cesspool thanks to some hapless rodents that found their way in and died; I've spent the last two weeks off and on sterilizing and cleaning it out but will need to remove the water to get a better idea of how badly the drain is plugged. My current idea is to get some general use sorbent pillows, it won't be as fast as a shop-vac but will make for less mess.

We got all the fire extinguishers in the shop, crew quarters, and in-service equipment inspected and serviced on May 18. We didn't need to do as many units this spring since we are shut down, so the total this time was 42 instead of 65 at a cost of \$808.22; saving us about \$300 dollars over last spring. I'd like to get all the remaining extinguishers serviced this fall if possible, probably around September; that will allow us to come in to the 2021 season with everything ready to go. The projected cost for servicing the remaining extinguishers is about the same as May, \$800 to \$900. Luckily with everything being serviced last spring or bought new last summer the repair and servicing costs are significantly lower.

On the topic of fire, we are planning to do some brush clearing next week for fire prevention and to create fire breaks. We've had a lot of grass and plant growth with all the recent rain storms so everything has been pretty green, but with this last week of heat things are starting to dry out. The main areas of focus will be dealing the grass by the inside balloon and adjacent tracks as well as finishing up the removal of the saplings along the southwest portion of the balloon. There are also quite a few trees that need trimming and limbing, and possibly a couple that are dead/dying that will need to be taken down. We may also try and tackle clearing back the brush along the balloon; luckily it isn't as bad this summer because we did a better job keeping after it the last three seasons.