

July 13, 2009

To: Locals- DOE
National Executive
National and Regional E.O. Representatives

RE: **DOE NJOHSPC Meeting of June 26, 2009**

The DOE National Joint Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee met on June 26, 2009. Brother Todd Panas Regional Vice-President, Prairie and Northern Region, and Sister Manon Desormeaux, Service Officer, attended. Below is a summary of the discussions that took place during this meeting.

Action Items from the Previous Meeting:

- *AED Memo Update:* The use of AEDs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- *Firearms Policy:* Management advised that a new Firearms Policy would be issued. However, the discussions will continue until the noted Policy is approved.
- *Winter Tires:* The Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) has a Winter Tire Guideline for light-duty vehicles advising that the Department may want to consider the use of snow tires on all vehicles during the winter season. This Guideline promotes the use of winter tires as a good practice for all existing vehicles in the fleet, where appropriate, and not necessarily at the time of vehicle acquisition. UEW proposed that a departmental Guideline be developed based on the TBS Winter Tire Guideline to be utilized by departmental managers to encourage them to analyze their specific needs and therefore make informed choices. As a minimum, it would be good practice to ensure that staff is aware of the Winter Tire TBS Guideline and have it posted as a reference link on the Departmental Intranet site.

Use of F-350 Trucks: (dually)

Many members have raised concerns at previous ROSH Committee meetings with respect to the use of F-350 Trucks and their potential Health and Safety risk. Instances relating to a dual wheel base that adds to the size of the overall vehicle and interferes with safe parking whether it is on the side of the road or in a parking lot have been raised. This is a concern for UEW since parking on the side of the road can become a health and safety issue since the trucks are wider and accidents can occur. The Department noted the concerns and will investigate the issue further and report back to the next Committee meeting.

Next meeting: September 2009.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to the above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.