

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Central Florida Area Local, #1462
10501 South Orange Avenue, Suite 117
Orlando, FL 32824
Phone: 407-854-6396
Fax: 407-854-6399

Office of Joe Paul, President
E-Mail: JPPaulAPWU@gmail.com
Cell: 863-640-2865

September 1, 2017

Don Shandor
Plant Manager
Orlando P&DC

Don:

As President of the Central Florida Area Local, it was brought to my attention that on August 31, 2017, whereby employees and APWU Stewards contacted me regarding a Hazmat concern that occurred in the AMF building at the Orlando P&DC. I contacted you via text and e-mails immediately. I have quite a few questions that I would need answered, and they are as follows:

1. Since it was reported that 'white powder' went airborne at the feeder portion of machine DBCS #2 in the AMF building, why were the employee(s) directly in contact with this mail not quarantined immediately in a room with dedicated HVAC equipment to contain the potential hazard?
2. Why was the building not secured to prevent any entry of arriving personnel; such as airline ground crew employees, Tour 1 incoming management staff and our bargaining unit employees?
3. Why were the other employees in the building not evacuated immediately due to the incident in case the agent was a biological health hazard/threat?
4. Why was the incident not communicated officially to incoming Tour management and employees?
5. Why did the Postal Inspector enter the building without protection in the event that the 'white powder' was a biological agent?
6. Why was, or were the Tour MDO's and a Tour 1 Lead Clerk, at or near the site of the incident during the substance analysis?
7. Was the substance analyzed and by whom?
8. Why was the caution tape not applied around the machine within minutes of the incident, and not approximately one hour or more later as was reported?
9. Why was the exposed employee (PSE) reassigned to another machine in the main building without the employee being cleared to come in vicinity of the other employees?

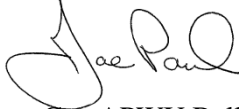


10. Was the mail transported from the VMF facility to the main building without being cleared of any possible contamination?
11. Why were the results of the inspection on the substance not properly/officially communicated to the employees that were in the AMF building where the incident took place?
12. If in fact the 'white powder' was determined to not be a hazard, has it been officially communicated to the employees?
13. What is the protocol for this type of incident? I would like an official copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

I look forward to your soon response as this type of incident could occur in the future in our ever-changing world. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this please contact me. It is hoped that your office responds back to me as expeditiously as possible so that our employees are made aware.

Please consider this as an official request for information per Article 31 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, which as you know, the APWU should receive the information back within 5 days. I thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Cc: APWU Bulletin Boards
Stephen Nelson, Director of Safety and Health
Robert McSorley, Vice President



ATTENTION ALL ORLANDO P&DC EMPLOYEES

****Below are the questions I sent to the USPS Plant Manager on September 1, 2017 concerning the 'white powder' incident that occurred in the AMF building on August 31, 2017. Under each of the (13) questions you will see management's typed responses that I received this evening, September 26, 2017.**

**Joe Paul
President**

To: Office of Joe Paul, President
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Central Florida Area Local, #1462
10501 South Orange Avenue, Suite #117
Orlando, FL 32824

Here are the questions to be answered:

1. Since it was reported that 'white powder' went airborne at the feeder portion of machine DBCS #2 in the AMF building, why were the employee(s) directly in contact with this mail not quarantined immediately in a room with dedicated HVAC equipment to contain the potential hazard?

Answer:

Employees in contact were asked to wash their hands and management checked on them to make sure they were ok. There were no BDS alarms that went active in our plant or any other plant in the country for incoming mail however area was roped off and employees were asked to not go that area.

2. Why was the building not secured to prevent any entry of arriving personnel; such as airline ground crew employees, Tour 1 incoming management staff and our bargaining unit employees?

Answer:

Postal Inspector was contacted and came on site to ensure that there was nothing hazardous. As far as containment, management should have prevented additional employees from entering the area if indeed anyone did. There was no eminent emergency such as fumes, smoke or fire but management should have prevented additional people from building. That is a learning moment and will be shared in refresher training.

3. Why were the other employees in the building not evacuated immediately due to the incident in case the agent was a biological health hazard/threat?

Answer:

There was no eminent emergency such as fumes, smoke or fire. Management did care for employee that was in contact with the mail piece. Postal Inspectors were called.

4. Why was the incident not communicated officially to incoming Tour management and employees?

Answer:

The incident was communicated to other employees but based on this feedback they may have missed some people. Again, more feedback for refresher training.

5. Why did the Postal Inspector enter the building without protection in the event that the 'white powder' was a biological agent?

Answer:

I cannot speak for the Postal Inspectors but have sent your question to their lead officer.

6. Why was, or were the Tour MDO's and a Tour 1 Lead Clerk, at or near the site of the incident during the substance analysis?

Answer:

Area was roped off. If any employee chose to go to that area they should not have and this feedback will be shared in refresher training.

7. Was the substance analyzed and by whom?

Answer: Substance was analyzed by US Postal Inspector. Will send you the name.

8. Why was the caution tape not applied around the machine within minutes of the incident, and not approximately one hour or more later as was reported?

Answer:

I was informed that it was. Will investigate and if there was a delay will use feedback for refresher training.

9. Why was the exposed employee (PSE) reassigned to another machine in the main building without the employee being cleared to come in vicinity of the other employees?

Answer:

Will revisit the events and take feedback for refresher training.

10. Was the mail transported from the VMF facility to the main building without being cleared of any possible contamination?

Answer:

If the mail that was transported from the AMF was from the machine that had the white powder it should have been left until potential hazard was ruled safe.

11. Why were the results of the inspection on the substance not properly/officially communicated to the employees that were in the AMF building where the incident took place?

Answer: I was informed that employees were informed that Inspection Service ruled that it was not a hazard.

12. If in fact the 'white powder' was determined to not be a hazard, has it been officially communicated to the employees?

Answer: I was informed that this information was provided. If it was not I will follow up with refresher for those involved.

13. What is the protocol for this type of incident? I would like an official copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Answer:

You have been provided with the SOP (handbook) and this is also being used in refresher training.