

Celebrating Safety at CVEA



Above, the theme for Safety Day – You Matter

With a goal of zero accidents or incidents, and a realization that there are inherent risks associated with nearly every task we perform at the Cooperative, we recognize the importance of properly planning work and identifying and avoiding potential hazards. To make this happen, we know safety must never be compromised for expediency or short-term cost savings. This commitment is strongly supported by leadership at all levels, including the Board and CEO, who emphasize that health and safety are paramount for everyone in the organization.

Officially, CVEA’s safety policy states, “The health, safety and welfare of each employee are a top priority of CVEA. We are dedicated to making workplace safety as important as productivity and quality in conducting our daily business. Everyone at CVEA is expected to be committed to

guarding against the occurrence of incidents and to comply with the applicable safety procedures and OSHA regulations.”

More importantly, our employees are dedicated to keeping themselves and each other safe, fostering safe work habits, maintaining positive safety attitudes, and contributing to ongoing safety improvements.

CVEA is proud of the strong safety culture we promote. We celebrate our commitment to safety annually during Safety Week, a series of daily activities focused on safety training and employee engagement, with incentives to encourage participation. This year during Safety Week, employees enjoyed a hazard hunt, a hazard communication activity, and an ergonomics and office safety day. The highlight of the week each year is Safety Day, an event that began in 2016, when an employee proposed it to the Safety Review and Recommendations Committee (SRRT). The SRRT, comprised of employees from all departments, meets quarterly to discuss safety issues and materials, assist with educational topics, and recommend improvements to our safety culture.

Coreen Palacios, CVEA’s Regulatory and Compliance Specialist, along with the SRRT, plans Safety Day each year. The event includes safety training, lunch, games, and prizes, bringing together employees from all departments in both districts.

This year’s Safety Day began with a fire safety presentation that included fire extinguisher training and a tour of Valdez Fire Station 1 provided by Captain Josh Larsen and Fire Engineer Caleb Metroka. This was followed by a tour of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project diversion structure led by Kyle Anderson, Hydro Chief Plant Operator, and lunch at the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant.

After lunch, CEO Jaime Matthews delivered a powerful message titled *You Matter*, emphasizing the value of each employee to the Cooperative and employees filled out cards defining why their safety matters that will be displayed as reminders on the office safety wall. Trivia games added a fun and interactive element to the day.

The team watched a video presentation documenting construction of the new Solomon Gulch substation, followed by an opportunity to tour the facility. Finally, as part of the *Commitment to Zero Contacts* initiative, Tim Stradinger, Valdez Line Foreman, shared a compelling story about his personal experience with an electrical contact, which left a meaningful impact on attendees.

Working safely is crucial not only for employees but also for members. Ensuring the safety of the CVEA team means they can continue to work effectively, rather than being sidelined by injuries. Reducing work-related injuries has also resulted in significant savings on workers' compensation insurance each year. This past year, our workers' compensation experience modification factor was well below the industry average for the tenth consecutive year, marking the lowest rate in CVEA's history and saving over \$20,000 annually on premiums.

If you would like more information on CVEA’s Safety Program, contact Coreen Palacios at cpalacios@cvea.org.