

Caterpillar Cogeneration COVID-19 Precautions

Sanitation

One of the key ways that our Cogen plant is fighting COVID-19 and promoting the safety of our workers is through proper and rigorous sanitation. Before changes were made, we had normal routine cleanings of our control room and workshop 3 days a week, mainly consisting of regular janitorial work. Since lock downs and stay-in-place orders have been enacted, we have switched to 5 days a week cleaning. In addition to the regular janitorial cleaning, all doorknobs, handles, cabinets, water coolers, light switches, etc. are also wiped down. It has been required of all workers to wipe down their desk entirely before beginning work to reduce the chance of prior shifts leaving anything behind.

Additionally, reminder signs were placed all throughout the plant to keep everyone aware of what cleanliness level is required. We promote continuous and regular washing of the hands, keeping hand sanitizer at every desk, reducing instances of face touching, and sanitizing areas after a sneeze or cough without a mask. Lastly, this level of sanitation was requested to be followed outside of work as well. Staying safe at work is one thing, but this mentality must be taken and used at home as well.

Access Restriction

It is simple to explain and enact changes and regulations on our workforce, but there is a level of uncertainty with the training and control placed on outside contract employees or other non-Caterpillar employees that may encounter our workers. To help mitigate the harms possible in this area, restrictions have been placed on who is allowed to enter the building and where they can travel after they have entered. "Stop" and "Do Not Enter" signs have been placed on all outside doors alongside a number that can be called to put the entrant in contact with the plants control room to ensure a safe entrance.

Additionally, the team has sent out documents and presentations to all contract employees currently used by this plant to inform them of the changes taking place and what is required of them in order to enter and work amongst us. Delivery services are informed at the gate to leave all packages outside the plant or in a designated drop off area. Cardboard boxes are to wait untouched by employees for 24 hours before bringing them into the workshop or control room because of the study conducted by Dr. Van Doremalen, and contributors, that stated COVID-19 can survive on cardboard for up to 24 hours. That article can be found in The New England Journal of Medicine if personal research is desired.

Self-Containment and Social Distancing

This is one of the simplest ways to fight the spread of the Coronavirus. To help make this easy and understandable to our workers, in areas where there is a chance that anyone could come within 6ft of another person, we have marked the floor to dictate 6ft intervals. That way everyone always knows exactly how far away they are from the nearest worker. In addition to this, since the announcement from Governor Pritzker, all workers must wear face masks when in the control for our plant or when they are in a position where it is difficult to maintain a safe social distance. This also expands to home life as well. We encourage our workers to adhere to the stay-at-home order and to use face masks outside the home as explained by state legislature. This is to ensure that our workers don't contract the disease and bring it to work with them, potentially harming their coworkers. This is the most important factor that we express constantly to our employees. If this simple step is followed, then we will be at our strongest and our safest.

Work Procedure Changes

This is a small change that has taken place due to another announcement from the Governor and suggestion by the CDC and the WHO. Any and all workers who can work from home are required to do so. If a worker needs to come into work that has been placed on our work from home list, for any reason, they must contact upper management and explain why they need to return to the plant. Then, after approval, they must contact the facility to alert those working currently of their arrival. At that time, they will be re-informed of all that is expected of them and asked questions to verify it is safe for them to return at all. These questions mainly deal with whether they have been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. On top of this, a more in-depth schedule has been set in place to reduce the number of contract workers at the facility at a given time. So, instead of contract workers all coming to work at the same time on different projects in the plant, only one project team will be allowed to work in each area at a given time. This is to reduce the number of people in a smaller area, to promote proper social distancing, and ensure the safety of our contract workers and employees.

Education

Education is a crucial aspect of dealing with safety on any level. To promote continuous learning on potential workplace hazards and even current events can reduce the loss of downtime, mobility, wellness, and even life of the employee. Caterpillar holds education to a very high regard and believes that everyone can learn and protect themselves with our help. Educating every worker about COVID-19 and preventative actions is just the surface level of what can be learned to better aid the safety of our workers. As a corporation, we go deeper. Articles are sent out and placed on our main website. That way all workers can see and read about the current nature of COVID-19, how other countries are faring/dealing with the outbreak, articles demonstrating the half life of the disease on different surfaces at different temperatures, and more. A well-educated work body is a smarter safer work body. By us all chipping in and doing our part we will make work life as safe as possible so that when the world starts back up again, we will be ready.

