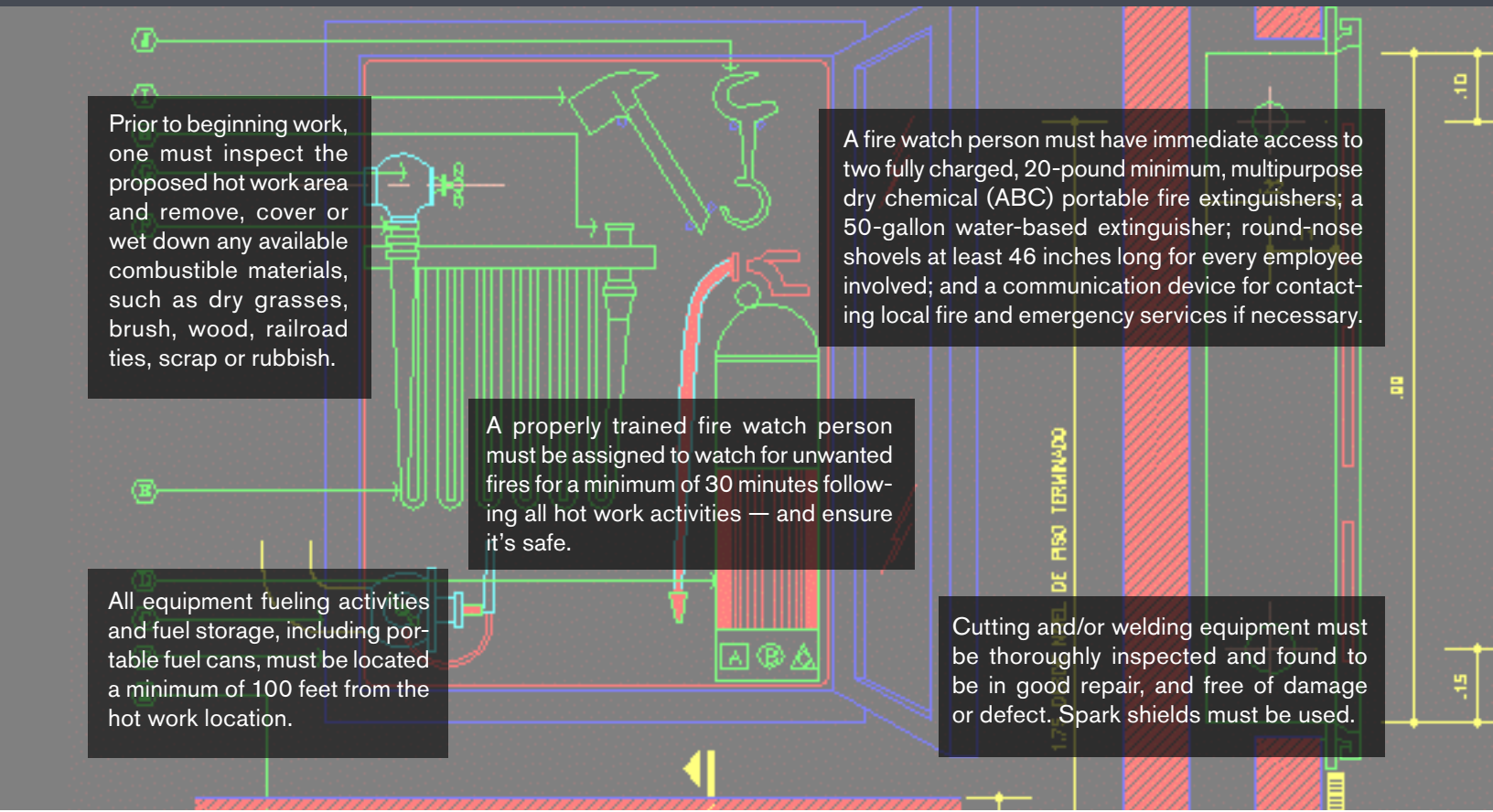


FIBER OPTIC FOCUS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES DEPARTMENT



Prior to beginning work, one must inspect the proposed hot work area and remove, cover or wet down any available combustible materials, such as dry grasses, brush, wood, railroad ties, scrap or rubbish.

A fire watch person must have immediate access to two fully charged, 20-pound minimum, multipurpose dry chemical (ABC) portable fire extinguishers; a 50-gallon water-based extinguisher; round-nose shovels at least 46 inches long for every employee involved; and a communication device for contacting local fire and emergency services if necessary.

A properly trained fire watch person must be assigned to watch for unwanted fires for a minimum of 30 minutes following all hot work activities — and ensure it's safe.

All equipment fueling activities and fuel storage, including portable fuel cans, must be located a minimum of 100 feet from the hot work location.

Cutting and/or welding equipment must be thoroughly inspected and found to be in good repair, and free of damage or defect. Spark shields must be used.

A Collective Call to Rid Potential for Fire

While fiber optic projects primarily involve earthwork such as digging, trenching and boring, there are occasions when hot work is necessary.

Hot work is defined as any activity that creates live flame, molten slag or sparks, and includes metal cutting, welding, grinding, cut-off saw on metal or dry concrete, etc., said Matt Petrali, construction coordinator. Plus, open warming fires are not allowed in any manner, shape or form.

To ensure the safety of their customers and contractors while on railroad property, Fiber Optic's regional construction coordinators such as Petrali conduct annual safety-training classes. Participants are informed about policies and procedures outlined in the group's Standards

Manual. This includes a fire safety plan.

Inside the manual on Exhibit Q is a required check sheet for any hot work to be performed on or near UPRR property. Section 3.11 discusses general fire prevention safety and hot work processes. The manual is available in the Reference category on www.up.com/aboutup/community/telecom/index.htm

More about Construction Coordinator Matt Petrali:

Petrali is this year's safety captain for the Fiber Optics group. Each week he strives to bring a fresh perspective about safety to the group via weekly conference calls, drawing upon various topical articles and video presentations.

As a construction coordinator, he also is responsible for Central and Northern

California, with Fresno and Paso Robles being his southern boundary. His territory also extends to the Oregon border to the north and west into Nevada.

Fast fact

Annual safety training participants receive the current year's safety sticker to attach to their hard hats, signifying that they have been safety trained.

New Adventure for Osthus

While this collection of short stories was released a year after his hire date, Jeff Osthus believes its title, *Wyoming: Rugged but Right*, accurately depicts his early years on the railroad.

Osthus began his career in January 1978 as an Engineering system survey crew member in Rawlins, Wyoming. And it was every bit of rugged, he said of the dramatically different seasons, terrain and weather changes.

But the native Nebraskan noted his childhood dreams were filled with travel and adventure. And that's exactly what he was able to do.

"I've really been on the road my entire career," said Osthus, who joined the Safety, Asset Utilization and Fiber Optic Technology (SAFT, pronounced "safety") team as engineering inspector in 1986. His early days with the department were spent traversing Wyoming and Utah to oversee the regional installation of UP's fiber network.

His territory later included Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, and involved interacting with customers, contractors and railroad personnel as a construction coordinator. His career highlights include helping develop the group's original Fiber Optic Engineering, Construction and Maintenance Standards manual.

In retirement, Osthus still hears resounding echoes of a 215-year-old call to Go West — or at least a call to explore the history of the country's westward expansion, starting with the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.



Forty year-railroader Jeff Osthus strums a new tune in retirement.

Rightfully enamored with the survival skills of fur traders and mountain men, Osthus occasionally attends living-history demonstrations, which allow viewers to immerse themselves in the time period. He participates in the camp activities by donning the appropriate attire such as buckskin clothing, and performing various primitive skills such as starting fire with a flint and steel or bow and spindle.

"It's fun to watch the children's eyes light up and hear their questions," he said.

However, Osthus' other hobby, bluegrass music, finds its origins back East in Kentucky's Appalachian mountains. And that's just fine by him as long as he finds a place to play.

"When there's an opportunity to get on stage, I don't turn it down usually," he said of his love for playing the banjo, fiddle, guitar and various other instruments. "I'm not trying to be professional; it's just something fun."

Argo Enters New Field: Retirement

Born and raised as a small-town USA farmer, Michael Argo soon sought employment with the railroad after the 1979 Export Administration Act ceased grain exports to Russia and impacted his family's income.

Argo, around 20 years old at the time, then applied to the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1981 with the idea that his laborer/driver role in Maintenance of Way would involve driving an 18-wheeler, but instead of grasping a stitched leather steering wheel cover, he found his hands constantly wrapped around a pickaxe or shovel.

"For the next 18 months, I manually unearthed and replaced 10 wooden ties per day; it was tough," he said. "I immediately decided I wanted to move up in the company."

And he did. After working stints as assistant foreman and foreman, Argo served as a Southern Region track inspector for 17 years.

His next endeavor as a Southern Region construction coordinator for UP's IT Department, however, would make use of his engineering design coursework at Wharton County Junior College.

With a territory stretching across three-fourths the state of Texas, Argo traveled regularly between Palestine and Brownsville, and Orange to El Paso — and locations in-between. This area included five major yards and more than five major communication companies, and his work involved overseeing fiber optic installations and repairs.

Argo capped his 37-year career March 1. Since that date, he has enjoyed spending time with his wife, Dede; their four children;

and two grandchildren. He's also enjoying more opportunities to fish, hunt or work on his golf carts — and of course consume some quality Texas barbecue.

But he's not enjoying those activities and entrees alone. He's sharing them with some of his past co-workers and customers.

"I enjoyed working with my customers in the field, and still enjoy hanging out with some of them and fishing," Argo said.

The same rings true for his opinion of his co-workers.

"They were some of the best people I'd worked with on the railroad, bar none," he said.



Now in retirement, Michael Argo, right, enjoys more time with family and friends.



Senior Project Engineer Tina Beckwith is pictured in the San Francisco Bay Area near the Golden Gate Bridge.

Beckwith Maintains High-level View of Projects

As a six-year flight attendant for a Midwestern airline, Tina Beckwith may have spotted the Union Pacific Center from the air a time or two as she prepared her passengers for landing in Omaha.

Little did she know, she'd later have an office space in that 19-story glass-and-steel structure.

From her home base in Omaha, Beckwith now serves as a senior project engineer for the Western Region and oversees 11 states and roughly 20,000 miles of fiber optic cable — that's nearly enough to go around 80 percent of the earth's circumference.

She's held the role since June 25.

To complete the work, she draws upon her bachelor's degree in business administration and management, and master's degree in leadership, both of which she earned from Bellevue University, just 10.6 miles away from her office.

She also completed Metro Community College's paralegal program in Omaha, working 18 months in the profession.

Beckwith's career with Union Pacific extends well beyond this summer though. She initially joined the railroad as a claims analyst in 2006. After a stint in contract management

with the Supply Department in 2011, she worked as a project coordinator with American Railway and Airway Supervisors Association's Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP) and a Signal Design engineer.

Currently, the Plattsmouth, Nebraska, native handles the agreements and projects that will affect Union Pacific and vendors from a fiber optic standpoint. A normal day for her begins at 6 a.m., as she digs into the weekly routine of checking for new projects and then working on the ones currently on the table.

When she's not at work, she enjoys time with her four children and traveling.

This newsletter appears under direction of the IT Department. For news coverage, contact Jacob Rademacher by phone at 402-475-6397, fax 402-475-6398, mail information to 2201 Winthrop Rd, Lincoln, NE 68502-4158, or email jacob@newslink.com. This material is intended to be an overview of the news of the department. If there are any discrepancies between this newsletter and any collective bargaining process, insurance contracts or other official documents, those documents will govern. UP continues to maintain and reserves the right, at any time, to alter, suspend, discontinue or terminate all plans and programs described in this newsletter. This newsletter is not an employment contract or any type of employment guarantee. Any photo submitted may be used. Anyone who submits a photo retains all rights to the image. However, by submission you give the newsletter permission to use your photo(s) in all related media. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.



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Leigh Uses Cell Tech to Line Up More Cell Tech

As a construction coordinator, Payton Leigh believes the most crucial portion of his job is to act as a liaison between the fiber optics carriers and Union Pacific Railroad on relocations and new construction.

While his territory consists of Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and a portion of Iowa, he knows the nature of the industry could require him to cover projects in other states.

“It’s vital that we protect the fiber carriers’ assets along our right of way because, at the end of the day, they’re also our customers,” he said.

Even though he has an office in Sterling, Illinois, just a few miles from his hometown of Rock Falls, a typical day for Leigh involves making multiple phone calls from his parked — albeit heavily driven otherwise — vehicle to outside plant (OSP) engineers and contractors for the various fiber carriers. He coordinates with the carriers’ contractors and maintains relationships with UPRR personnel who help them with signal locates and flagging

requests.

“No two jobs are ever the same,” Leigh said. “But I really enjoy interacting with new people, building working relationships with our customers and hopefully delivering value to the customers.”

While Leigh is new to the Fiber Optics group, as of April 1, he’s not new to the railroad. He began his career June 6, 2001, as a welder helper on the Chicago Service Unit. From there, the Engineering Department employee became a federated welder, a responsibility he handled for several years. In 2011, he took on a Northern Region welding supervisor role, overseeing in-track welding gangs.

Prior to joining UP, Leigh attended Wyoming Technical School in Laramie,



Construction Coordinator Payton Leigh

farmed for a number of years, and worked as a diesel mechanic on an oil exploration ship.

Leigh and his wife of 16 years, Lynnsey, have two children, Ellie, 13; and Carson, 9. Along with spending time with family and attending youth activities, he enjoys working in the yard and being outdoors, which includes participating in deer and turkey hunting and various shooting sports with his children.