


Upgrading Your Roadway Worker Protection Using APTA's Suite of RWP Standards

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Key Presentation Take-Aways

- Overview of APTA OPWG
 - RWP & brief history
 - OPWG Suite of RWP standards
 - Applicability & additional considerations
 - Secondary protection technology & practices
 - Evaluating Compliance: RWP at your RTS
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Overview of APTA Operating Practices Working Group

- Formed in 2000
- Extensive operating experience from multiple transit perspectives
- Multimodal representation: old & new heavy rail, light rail, streetcar, automated peplemover
- Five standards dedicated to RWP



RWP Matters

- October 2013
 - 3 fatalities
 - 2 serious injuries
- 2002-14
 - 28 fatalities
- Serious response from industry



What is Roadway Worker Protection?

- The RWP program is the RTS's set of rules for safe performance of all kinds of work on or near right-of-way (ROW)
- Requires coordination of ground crews with Operations (via Control Center or Track Allocation)
- Ensures safe practices for daily RTS inspection & maintenance of rail systems

Roadway Worker Protection Recent History

- Rail Transit Systems (RTSs) had inconsistent RWP policies and plans
- Transit fatalities at multiple RTSs placed enhanced federal focus on RWP programs
 - “Dear Colleague” letter, 12/31/13
 - Safety Advisory 14-1 for SSOAs to audit RWP
- Result: increased review and attention from state safety oversight, FTA, & NTSB

Roadway Worker Protection

- Issue: RTSs had no consistent framework to develop or administer RWP programs
- FTA directed APTA OPWG to develop a Standard for Roadway Worker Protection Requirements
 - Expand on original RWP-related standards
 - Include real-world experiences
 - Operationally effective for all RTSs
 - Incorporates elements of 49 CFR Part 214

APTA's Suite of RWP Standards

- Distinct standards to address all areas of RWP:
 - Work Zone Safety Practices
 - [APTA RT-OP-S-004-03 Rev 2](#)
 - Contractor's Responsibility for Safety on the ROW
 - [APTA RT-OP-S-010-03 Rev 2](#)
 - RWP Program Requirements
 - [APTA RT-OP-S-016-11 Rev 1](#)
 - Rail Transit Track Allocation Program Requirements
 - [APTA-RT-OP-S-020-014](#)
 - On-Track Equipment Safety Requirements
 - [APTA RT-OP-S-021-15](#)

Suite of RWP Standards Highlights

- Work Zone Safety Practices
 - Evolved to become safe working practices in the work zone
 - Rules for PPE; power; work plans; site cleanliness; etc.
- Contractor's Responsibility for Safety
 - Clarifies how RTSs shall work with contractors who do work on / near the ROW.

Suite of RWP Standards Highlights

- RWP Program Requirements
 - All-encompassing document for safety on the ROW
 - Rules/Procedures; Training; Supervision; Technology
- Rail Transit Track Allocation Program Requirements
 - Establishes formal scheduling requirements
 - Requires certain minimum information to be confirmed as part of track allocation
 - Establishes formal documentation protocols



Suite of RWP Standards Highlights

- On-Track Equipment Safety Requirements
 - Looks to FRA to implement additional visual and audible safety devices on OTE
 - Promulgates requirements for procedures for safe work on/near OTE
 - Incorporates OTE pre-trip inspection requirements



Ongoing Issues in RWP

- Managing construction adjacent to RTS
 - Coordinate safe work zones
 - Deploy flaggers and watch-persons
- Operating hours vs. maintenance needs
 - Increased employees and contractors working in the ROW during operational hours
- Programs and policies that miss the mark
 - Use APTA standards as an agency benchmark
 - Baseline your RWP program

Secondary Protection in RWP


- FTA, FRA, and NTSB have pointed to secondary protection as a preventative measure in RWP fatalities
- Practices:
 - Some rail systems utilize additional watchpersons with track inspections
- Technology:
 - In use or in beta testing by multiple RTs
 - Multiple technologies; approaches

Evaluating Compliance

- Engage all relevant departments in review of APTA Standards
- Conduct gap analysis of RWP program with APTA suite of standards to identify:
 - Areas of compliance & non-compliance
 - Process improvements
 - Training opportunities
- Determine if gaps pose risk to your RTS
- Engage relevant departments in updates to RWP program

RWP at Your RTS

Lessons Learned & Best Practices

- Has your agency identified any innovative solutions that improve RWP program compliance?
 - How often do Ops and Safety audit RWP compliance? RWP program as a whole?
 - Could your RWP programs benefit from further evaluation of implemented updates?
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Summary: Improving Your RWP

- APTA Standards exist & provide guidance
 - Developed by rail transit industry
 - Referenced by SSOAs, FTA, NTSB, RTS mgmt.
 - Evolved to meet lessons learned & improvements related to our understanding of RWP
- Cross check standards with RTS programs
 - Does RTS program align with APTA document?
 - Make the changes; monitor; continually improve
- Result is a safer working environment

Questions & Comments

Thank you!

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