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Witness: John P. Dipaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding, Jenna M. Turner, Craig Dikeman, and Matthew J. Correia
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(VEGETATION CREW BILLING) Explain the contractual obligations for the correct treatment of billing hours during meal breaks for each external tree crew vendor for both non-storm and storm events (i.e., including both working time and standby time). As part of the response, list each vegetation vendor and cite the contract provisions that detail the correct billing practices. If the contracts do not explicitly detail the permitted billable treatment of labor hours for meals, please provide email or other communications supporting the billable treatments.

Response:

Please refer to the response to EOE-128. Work practices govern the treatment of meal breaks during billing hours.

Please refer to EOE-128, Attachment 1. During non-storm or blue-sky days, local Connecticut tree crews are paid 9-hours of straight time for time worked during 7 AM to 4:30 PM (07:00 to 16:30), up to the first 45 working hours, with a 30-minute unpaid meal break.

During storm events, a meal break is not excluded so the 9-hours paid for straight time are 7 AM to 4:00 PM (i.e. 07:00 to 16:00) and everything worked between the hours of 4:00 PM to 7:00 AM (16:00 to 07:00) of the next day have a premium rate applied.

For tree crews, all time on shift is work time. Tree crews do not have contractual provisions allowing for payment of standby time. When a tree crew indicates “standby” on a timesheet, it is not equivalent to the “standby” time of line crews. Instead, this is a shorthand note that the crews are on their assigned storm shift and are actively ready to respond to provide the service for which they are hired. For example, they may be waiting for a line crew to arrive or to make the location safe for them to do their work, all of which is part of the tree crew’s work time hours.