

Oregon OSHA
Construction Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Alta Schafer	Emily Crews	Melissa Diede
Amme Standring	Jeff Hooper	Michael Wood
Barb Epstien	Jeff Wilson	Michelle Brunetto
Bruce Roller	Kevin Wheatcroft	Pat Brunson
Bryon Snapp	Lisa Pickert	Paul Magrone
Candice Teague	Maggie Bradley	Roger Dale-Moore
Clint Elliott	Mark Hillyard	Tony Howard
David Davidson	Mark Tobiasson	
Demetra Star	Mary Lou Wilson	

The meeting was called to order by Mark Tobiasson
Self-introductions were made.
Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Lessons Learned:

Issue: Operation of a scissor lift with flat tires.

Employees were using a scissor lift driving on a concrete slab and they were up 40 feet up when the tire went flat (blew out). The lift is designed not to tip over if the tires go flat, but it will keep driving. The tires had 3 plugs in them. They called the manufacturer and they said that the tires are the tire manufactures responsibility if there are issues with the tires. The tire manufacture said that you are required to check the tire pressure daily, and if there is an issue, a plug is what they fix it with.
There were no injuries.

A person was injured on a piece of sheet metal. The crew was cleaning up and they set a large piece of sheet metal up on a short wall. A person was walking by and they went to get the keys out of their pocket when their hand caught the edge of the sheet metal, slicing their hand. They received five stitches to the wound.

Battery powered tools- a screw gun was being used when the battery caught fire. They called the manufacture and a new battery was given. The brand was HILTI. Tony shared with the group that they have had issues with these batteries. Small holes on bottom of the battery indicated potential misuse- such as using the unit as a hammer, or if it got any moisture in it could cause the battery to catch fire. [He shared the inspecting a battery information.](#) Hoffman Construction Company created a [Lithium Ion Battery Directive.](#)

There was a company that we putting in a generator pad in the office, and they had dug a hole in the walk way. It wasn't barricaded or covered, and was in an unlit area. Two people had stepped in the hole and injured their leg.

-Cover the holes and barricade them, don't just tell someone else to do.

OSHA Penalties:

Michael discussed how OSHA issues penalties. There is a [penalty table](#) that compliance officers use to determine the base penalties and the outliers they take into account. They rate the penalty as low, medium, or high probability on either Other than serious, Serious physical harm, or Death.

Michael noted that you don't have to go through the series of repeat violations to end up with a willful violation, it can be issued at any time if it is determined that it is warranted.

If you have any questions about penalties please contact

Chris Ottoson: chris.ottoson@oregon.gov or Gary Beck: gary.beck@oregon.gov

Continuing Business:

Status of Rule Making:

Walking Working Surfaces:

OR-OSHA is holding public hearings [on March 29, April 3, April 12, and April 13](#) on the rule changes. The comment period ends on April 20, 2017.

Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)-

Oregon OSHA will be tackling the challenge of the outdated permissible exposure limits (PELs), possibly 5-7 PELs. Manganese and Lead are the first two that will have an advisory group to discuss levels and actions.

Monthly Accidents and Fatalities Report:

Accidents

1. March 14th Eugene

The employee had a pre-existing hernia. Historically, the worker said he could push the herniated tissue back in and it would stay. On 3-14-17, the worker could not keep the hernia contained after reportedly lifting and moving lumber on a construction site. The worker drove himself to the hospital. He was admitted overnight with treatment.

2. March 27th Portland

Employee was working on an elevator shaft landing. He picked up a 6x6 post and dropped it. The post broke and fell through the landing. The employee fell through 2 landings. The employee fell 9 feet through the first landing then 10 feet through the next landing.

3. March 30th Portland

Employee(s) were finishing up installing PVC membrane on a roof. Injured employee had his harness on; however, was not connected to the roof anchor. The employee slipped and fell approximately 16-18 feet to the ground. The employee suffered a shoulder injury, fractured vertebrae and a broken pelvis.

4. March 17th Lake Oswego

Employee was standing on a step ladder setting trusses and fell on steps below resulting in broken ribs and other medical conditions.

5. March 27th Beaverton

Employee was tearing off roof and slipped. The employee was wearing fall protection; the rope caught the gutter and swung the employee into the stairs. As a result the employee broke his ankle.

6. March 30th Woodburn

A worker cut the tip of his thumb off with a chop saw.

7. March 17th Portland

An employee was scratched at some point. It was reported to the employer the day after the employee received medical services in the evening when the scratch became infected. A second surgery was conducted.

8. March 30th Medford

An employee fell from deck joist while framing. He struck his head and wrists, sustaining fractures.

Fatalities

1. March 7th Springfield

Deceased was dispatched to site to tow a vehicle out of a ditch. When he arrived on scene, the first responders were finishing up, it was a non-injury accident. Deceased contacted dispatch and asked for additional help to pull vehicle from ditch, he went to his tow truck to wait for assistance. The second tow truck driver contacted deceased and spoke with him for about 10 minutes prior to arriving on scene. At some point after that the owner of the vehicle walked over to the tow truck driver to speak to the deceased and he was found non-responsive. Owner pulled the deceased from the truck and began CPR. When the second tow truck driver arrived, deceased was being loaded into the ambulance, approx. 45 minutes later he was pronounced dead at the site.

2. March 10th Ontario

The employee was found lying on the ground at the dumpster where he was heading to throw away trash. The plant manager had spoken to the employee just prior to him going to the dumpster. No signs of the employee suffering from a heart attack were observed during that interaction.

3. March 21st Portland

Employee was found in the 3rd floor storage room, with a laceration to his left arm. Ambulance arrived on scene and pronounced victim deceased. ME determined cause of death was suicide.

4. March 29th Sherwood

Employee was dispatched to job site around 9:30 am to work on an excavator. When the employee did not return home later in the evening a family member began calling co-worker's to report him missing. GPS in the vehicle showed that the truck had been at the job site since 11 am. Employee was found on his back behind the excavator.

Police were called to investigate. No signs of impact, fall, or injury of any kind. Presumed natural causes.

Round table:

[AGC Safety and Health](#) is reaching out to people who would like to meet for networking and information sharing. They are meeting Thursday, April 20, 2017.

You can call the Construction Industry Crime Prevention Program (CICPP) if you need any help or information about homeless people who are causing problems on the job site. You can also call the local police if they are being threatening. CICPP is located in Gresham. Their phone number is (503) 618-8871.

The Construction Safety Summit will meet April 25, 2017 at John's Incredible Pizza. Jana Wolfgang will be talking about Drugs in the Workplace Marijuana Update. Also, April 28, 2017 is the Safety Director Roundtable at the Lucky Lab Brewing at 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

A question was asked about the West Salem Lead issue.

- A building in West Salem that housed a battery manufacturing facility for several decades was "repurposed" several years ago and leased to a number of commercial tenants, including a caterer, a recreational batting cage, a roller rink, a cross-fit facility (with a drop-in child care facility), and a soon to be completed brew pub. In response to ongoing discussions with DEQ about a deed restriction due to past outside lead spills, the owner was asked to have wipe samples conducted. Those samples revealed a high level of interior lead contamination, suggesting the facility had never been thoroughly cleaned as part of its remodel. Because of concerns primarily regarding customer exposure, as well as possible concerns about the workers completing the brew pub remodel, DEQ, the Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon OSHA asked the owner to voluntarily close the facility until it could be cleaned (in line with clean-up standards applied to lead abatement projects involving housing and child care facilities). The owner did so, and the clean-up work is ongoing.

SafeBuild Alliance is doing a kickoff event for Safety Week at the World Forestry Center on Friday, April 28, 2017. It is from 6:30 am to 9:30 am. [You can register on their website.](#)

The Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences' Spring Symposium is on Thursday, May 11, 2017 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can register through their link: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/oregon-institute-occupational-health-sciences/outreach/Positive-Safety-Health.cfm>

Next Meeting:

May 2, 2017

OR-OSHA Portland Office

Durham Plaza

16760 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd, STE 200

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