

**Oregon OSHA  
Forest Activities Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 12, 2015**

**9 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

Tom Bozicevic  
Stephanie Ficek  
Mark Gustafson  
Jim Gahlsdorf  
Teri Watson  
Jeff Wimer

Mike Coiner  
Rocky Shampang  
Larry Kirkpatrick  
Jeff Turchetto  
Dennis Sifford  
Rod Huffman

Mark Dvorscak  
John Garland  
Bruce Skurdahl  
Mark Standley

Tom called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The committee approved the Dec. 11, 2014 meeting minutes

**Continuing Business:**

**Standardized whistle signals-**

The committee discussed the definitions for the following logging terms:

- Running skyline
- Live skyline (slack skyline, slacklines)
- Standing skyline

Jeff Wimer presented whistle systems draft he developed after surveying approximately 6 companies. He had concerns on some whistles that are no longer used, but he felt we could leave them in. The committee made some recommended which included leaving in some signals. The subcommittee will meet via teleconference to discuss these changes before bringing them back to the committee.

According to committee members, many logging companies are not necessarily following the mandatory whistle systems in Division 7, Appendix 7-A. Some members had concerns in requiring a standard set of whistle signals because some companies have been using their signals for 40+ years and the use of the signals often becomes instinctual (action/reaction) for many people. As a result, while standardization of whistle systems may reduce unintended movement of yarding lines in situations where a newly hired worker has pervious experience with a similar whistle signal system; alternatively, a greater hazard would initially exist for crews to change to a new whistle system to comply with the rule. Larry asked- as long as everyone on the crew knows the whistles, is using your own whistle system acceptable? While 437-007-0940(4) requires signals in Appendix 7-A to be used, under 437-007-0940(5) new whistle systems can be adopted for new or unusual situations as long as they are only used for the situation and employees know them. Oregon OSHA will gather more information to answer Larry's question. While we do not want to expose workers during the "learning curve" phase of adopting a new whistle system, we shouldn't institutionalize potentially unsafe work practices in an industry with a changing workforce.

### **Single person using a chain saw to clear a road obstruction-**

Tom read his response, based on the committee's discussion at the last meeting, about a single person working alone with a chain saw to clear a road obstruction. This language can be used to make an Oregon OSHA policy memo. It was noted that it should be a requirement that the worker try to notify someone when before they start the job and when the job is completed. *(See 12-11-2014 meeting minutes for more information)*

### **Mini-excavators for mechanized logging-**

Tom handed out a list of protective structure International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards available for mini-excavators. He did not find protective structures for Jill-Poke protection such as ISO 8084:2003 available for mini-excavators. There isn't Jill-Poke protection for these smaller machines, which is a concern.

Bruce Skurdahl said that the logging industry is a small segment in the attachment and mini-excavator manufacturer industry, so the level of protection needed for logging is not their priority. Mini-excavators are currently not allowed in forest activities unless the appropriate protection is provided. The group agreed that it should stay that way for forestry activities that exposes workers to the hazards associated with logging i.e. timber falling, yarding and loading. Mowing the side a forest road or digging a logging road to install a culvert doesn't necessarily exposed workers to these hazards, but still fall under the scope of Division 7.

The committee recommended that the mini-excavators should be limited to certain uses unless they have all the appropriate protection: Roll-over or Tip-over, Falling Objects, and Jill-poke. Oregon OSHA will look into what specific activities, if any, could mini-excavators be used in logging.

### **Tags for yoders-**

The group continued its discussion on tags for yoders. There were some questions whether we truly need tags. The real issue is with yoders that are modified beyond the original design. Tom explained that the question originated because the definition of metal tower in Division 7 includes "boom".

**Metal tower** – A vertical or leaning metal tube or boom used for yarding logs by various methods of cable logging.

The concern is when a yoder boom is supported by guylines and the working capacity is exceeded. However, if we added "supported by guylines" to the definition of the metal tower, it could add clarity to the definition's ambiguous language when it comes to its applicability to booms on yoders.

### **Tethered machine logging-**

According to Jeff, ISO is currently developing a standard for tethered machines. John reported that Oregon State University also submitted a grant to NIOSH for tethered machine logging. Tom showed a PowerPoint presentation by Ponsse provided to him by Steve Aulerich. Members asked for a copy of the presentation to be sent to the group.

## **LeTourneaus used to secure log truck loads at log yards-**

Tabled

### **New Business:**

#### **Shirts with retro-reflective material on non high-visibility garment-**

Mark Standley presented a hickory shirt that had orange retroreflective strips and asked if it would be considered high-visibility. The committee discussed the definition of high-visibility according to the Division 7 definition and reviewed ANSI 107, which Tom provided:

**High visibility colors** – Bright or fluorescent white, lime green, orange, yellow, red, or aqua colors that stand out from the surrounding background color so as to make them easily seen.

The committee agreed that the shirt alone would not be enough to comply with the rule:

**437-007-0310 High-Visibility Color.** All employees exposed to the potential hazard of moving lines, falling timber, logs, vehicles, machines and other moving equipment or materials must wear upper body cover and/or hard hats of a high-visibility color, that contrasts with the background color(s).

#### **Oregon OSHA's Logging Newsletter-**

Tom shared that the logging newsletter went out in February 2015 and he brought extras for the committee to handout.

### **Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report:**

Tom shared that he will be disturbing the quarterly report in the future. The committee discussed the second quarter report and Tom shared some of the details.

### **Roundtable:**

Jeff shared about a Facebook video that shows an unsafe practice of flat-stumping that occurred in another state. He was concerned that people would see that and want to try it here.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

12:16 p.m.

### **Next Meeting:**

**When:** Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 9 a.m.

**Where:** Associated Oregon Loggers Office, 2015 Madrona Ave SE, Salem, Oregon 97302