

# Oregon OSHA Forest Activities Advisory Committee

September 11, 2014

9:00 AM

## Meeting Minutes

### **Attendees:**

Tom Bozicevic  
Steve Aulerich  
Mark Dvorscak

Rocky Shampang  
Teri Watson  
Peggy Munsell

Stephanie Ficek  
Greg Stratton  
Dennis Sifford

Rod Huffman  
Ben Leshchinsky  
Jim Gahlsdart

**Tom Bozicevic called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.**

**The committee approved the June 12, 2014 meeting minutes.**

### **Continuing Business:**

#### **Whistle systems consolidation**

Rod Huffman provided a handout of standing skyline yarding system whistle signals from Jeff Wimer who surveyed several logging companies to determine what whistle signals they used. The handout also included Jeff's recommendation for standing skyline yarding system whistle signals. There was discussion about new carriage technology and how there are times when a logging operation would need to switch from different whistle signals required in Appendix 7-A to comply with 437-007-0940, which would cause confusion. The standard states that new whistle signals can be created only for unique situations. The committee agreed that our goal is to have a standard set of whistles, adapted to the latest technology, that could work for standing skylines, running skylines and other systems. The committee recommended that a subcommittee work on this set of standard whistles. Rocky Shampang, Rod Huffman, Greg Stratton, and Tom Bozicevic agreed to be on the subcommittee, and Jeff Wimer will be included.

Mark Dvorscak asked if we have statistics of injuries from confusion with whistles. He also asked about California or Washington rules.

**DOSH leg protectors must meet ASTM standard, and chain saw injuries in Oregon**

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety/hazardalerts/kevlarsafetyinserts.pdf>

Tom provided copies of the hazard alert from DOSH about leg cuts when wearing unsecured Kevlar safety inserts during chain saw use and a report of accepted disabling claims involving chainsaws in Oregon 2003 - 2012. The hazard alert brings attention to how unsecured inserts can shift and expose the user legs to cut and laceration injuries. The committee agreed to get the word out to the industry about the dangers of unsecured inserts and chaps that do not meet the ASTM standard. Tom will feature this safety issue in the next newsletter to the industry.

### **OSU mobile anchor program**

Ben Leschinsky from Oregon State University presented information he gathered from tests using a load cell on a skyline attached to a skidder. He presented data for measured load, load capacity, and movement of the machine used as the anchor. He is working towards developing a phone app, a webinar, and workshops about the holding capacity of various machine anchors. Ben is working with the US Forest Service and is looking for more testing opportunities and letters of recommendation to help their development efforts.

### **Tethered vehicles**

Steve Aulerich presented videos of tethered machinery which are used in other countries for logging on steep slopes. The committee should examine the code to see if it adequately addresses the new machinery and process. These types of machines are likely to be here within a year.

### **Locational issues for Medevac**

Mark Dvorscak spoke to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) manager for the Notification of Operation to see if ODF could provide logging companies the latitude/longitude coordinates in degree decimal minutes when they submit a notification form. The committee will submit a letter to ODF identifying and supporting the need for a degree decimal minutes format for logging operations to use for summoning medevac services.

### **New Business:**

#### **Using silver hard hats**

Rod Huffman mentioned that he is seeing more silver hard hats out in the field. Technically, you can wear a silver hard hat as long as you are wearing a high-visibility upper body garment (e.g., safety vest). Rod believes silver hard hats are visible and should be added to our list of colors that are acceptable. Rocky said that the rule states that the color has to contrast with the background and the definition of “high-visibility”

does not include silver as one of the acceptable colors. Greg pointed out that red, although it is a “high-visibility” color, is not visible in the shade.

### **Slashing vs. faced and back cuts per 437-007-0810**

Mark Dvorscak had a question about falling trees that are over 6-inch DBH – can they be slashed or do they need to have a face cut in accordance with 437-007-0810(15)? The official interpretation that Oregon OSHA gave Mark was that any tree over 6-inch DBH must have a face cut when felled. The reason Mark is bringing up the issue is because trees that are being slashed are not completely cut clean off, so the loggers come through and the trees are attached to the stump and are prone to up-ending. The committee recommends adding a note to the rule or issuing a letter of interpretation so that it’s clear that all trees over 6-inch DBH must have an acceptable undercut. If we add more than a note to the rule, we will need to do rulemaking. The committee agrees that it is a safety issue.

### **Tags for yoders**

Tom presented the question about the requirement for tags for yoders since the Division 7 definition for metal tower includes “boom.” The rule is not clear if tags aren’t required. Should they be required for yoders with guylines or hoders? There was discussion about the safety issue and the potential hardship for the industry if we make it a tag requirement. The committee tabled the issue for further discussion at the next meeting.

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

Tom passed out a sheet that outlines the accidents reported to Oregon OSHA that occurred since the last meeting.

### **Roundtable:**

- Rod presenting stickers with the HazCom pictograms that they are using for diesel and gas.
- Teri Watson passed around a review of fatalities that FACE produced for Washing and asked if we would like something like that from Oregon to include in the newsletter. The committee agreed that would be valuable.
- Dennis Sifford provided copies of ODF’s The Hot Sheet volume XII-5 that revisits the issue with fires attributed to hot saws. They are becoming the #1 cause of fires.  
[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/PUBS/docs/Hot\\_Sheets/HotSheetSeptember2014.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/PUBS/docs/Hot_Sheets/HotSheetSeptember2014.pdf)

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

12:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

**When:** Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 9 a.m.

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