

**Oregon OSHA  
Forest Activities Advisory Committee  
September 17, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

John Garland	Bruce Skurdahl	Jeff Rink
Mike Barger	Gary Beck	Mike Montgomery
Mark Dvorscak	Peggy Munsell	Stephanie Ficek
Mike Coiner	Rocky Shampang	Tom Bozicevic
Larry Kirkpatrick	Teri Watson	
Mark Gustafson	Rod Huffman	

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

The group introduced themselves.

The June 11, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee with adding a committee member's name to the attendees.

**Continuing Business:**

**Tethered machine logging** – Oregon State University College of Forestry, in partnership with machine manufactures, has received a three-year NIOSH grant to research the tethered machines logging. The logging practice is currently being used in the State of Washington, Canada, New Zealand and European countries, and will soon be introduced to Oregon. Bruce explained that the practice of tethering machines has been used for years for grooming ski slopes.

The rule that addresses machines operating on slopes is 437-007-0935 (Operation of Ground Skidding Machines and Vehicles), which was not written with tethered logging in mind. The rule requires forestry equipment designed for steep slopes to be limited to slopes of 50 percent or less, unless specified by the machine manufacturer. In addition, the rule limits tracked feller bunchers not specifically designed for steep slopes to slopes of 40 percent or less, unless specified otherwise by the manufacturer.

The committee will work towards developing guidelines for employers who want to use tethered logging methods and Oregon OSHA staff who encounter them. A tethered logging subcommittee was organized consisting of John, Rod, Rocky, Mark, Bruce and Tom will develop the guidelines for the next meeting.

**Medevac update in Astoria** – Rod provided copies of AOL's Emergency Medical Plan and First Aid for Helicopter Rescue. They are planning to update this plan – specifically, the phone numbers for helicopter rescue. He encouraged folks to plan and practice for rescue situations. You also need to prepare for situations when cell phone service is unavailable. Rod mentioned that the form is available on AOL's website for its members.

Gary mentioned that sometimes in other industries seriously injured or ill employees are taken by their employer or coworker to the hospital rather than calling 911. Due to the risk of a medical condition worsening in-route to the hospital, Gary encouraged employers to summons emergency medical services (EMS) first – even if you still have to drive the injured worker to meet in-route EMS.

**Securing log loads with machines at log yards** – Tom shared that there was another recent incident where a log truck driver was struck by a log that came off a load when he was removing his wrappers at a log yard. In this case, the machine operator failed to secure the load after determining it was unnecessary. The rule requires log loads to be secured by a barrier or machine when removing wrappers; however, it does not specify how when using machines. John stated that logs shift in transport, so we should add “encompass the load” when removing wrappers.

The issue was tabled for the next meeting so that Mark Stanley would have an opportunity to share his findings on what log yards are doing to secure log loads with machines.

John also recommended that Oregon OSHA should remove the note under 437-007-1005(11) since there is no way to ensure the stability of a load.

*Note: Wrappers are considered to be a precautionary measure to ensure stability of the load during transit.*

John’s suggestion was added to the Division 7 rulemaking list of future changes.

**Automatic door openers/closers for forestry cabs** – Tom discussed the email Jim Gahlsdorf sent to committee members prior to the meeting regarding information on installing automatic doors openers on heavy doors to machine cabs. Mike reminded everyone that such an addition must not compromise the integrity of the machine’s protective structure.

### **New Business:**

**Reprogramming delimiters for quality control** – Rod shared on behalf of Mark Stanley about a potential safety concern regarding reprogramming delimiters to override the operator. The main issue is when you get to the top log – the head shoots it through and there is nothing to stop it. The landowners are putting these programming cards on the machines and it’s up to the operators if they want to use it. John suggested that they let the operator control the speed in the cards. We tabled this issue until the next meeting when Mark can explain more. John suggested invite a representative from Weyerhaeuser to our next meeting to discuss this practice.

**Oregon OSHA enforcement policy for conducting inspections at home offices** – Gary gave information about enforcement officers visiting home offices. They are not to go into a home office on a scheduled visit unless invited in. He also stated that compliance officers should conduct home office inspection activities after 8:00 a.m.

**Swing yarders** – Tom passed around pictures of a swing yarder from manufacturer in Canada. John asked about protection from falling objects. Rod asked about the doors and windows – is there ample guarding? Mark pointed out that a falling object could deflect off the guard and come through the glass of the window. The group was unsure if this machine would meet our standards.

**Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q4-FY2015):**

One hospitalization and two fatalities during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter were discussed.

**Roundtable:**

- Larry shared a wire rope testing result from West Coast Wire where the wire rope failed. Roberts Supply thinks we should change the rigging rules in 437-007-0610, specifically (7) and (9) where we give requirements for eye splices. We concluded that we need the testing companies to give more information. Larry will call West Coast Wire and get more information.
- Rod asked the group about using guylines when yarding. John said that the manufacturer recommendations are outdated and some of the manufacturers are not even in existence anymore.
- Teri passed around flyers for the Pulp, Paper and Forest Products Safety and Health Conference, December 1-4.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

**When:** Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 9 a.m.

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