

Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
December 10, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Steve Aulerich
Mike Barger
Tom Bozicevic
Mike Coiner
Mark Dvorscak
Stephanie Ficek

Jim Gahlsdorf
John Garland
Rod Huffman
Larry Kirkpatrick
Peggy Munsell

Rocky Shampang
Bruce Skurdahl
Mark Standley
Jeff Wimer
Tom Wright

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

Committee members introduced themselves.

The September 17, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee with two changes – (1) removing the statement that the committee considered it was too early to develop rules regarding tethered logging, since the committee now believes that that is no longer the case, and (2) clarifying that OSHA inspections at home offices should not start before 8 a.m.

Continuing Business:

Tethered machine logging:

The committee watched a tethered machine logging video recorded by a member during the committee's field trip to Weyerhaeuser's Longview Tree Farm, WA., on October 19, 2015. The "cable assisted" equipment being used by C & C Logging, was manufactured by Hancock Forest Management, located in New Zealand. Tom passed around Hancock's "Interim Best Practice Guideline Cable Assisted Steep Slope Harvesting," dated February 17, 2015. A member stated that a representative from Hancock indicated that they were in the process of revising their guidelines, and their new guidelines may be available in January 2016. The subcommittee will try to obtain a copy of the new guidelines for review.

The committee reviewed draft language for tethered machine logging systems guidelines, developed by consolidating consideration submitted by subcommittee members who attended the field trip. The committee recommended developing guidelines that would not restrict technological innovation, but would prevent individuals from constructing and using tethered logging equipment without using sound engineering and testing practices. A member suggested that if rules are developed, they should be similar to requirements for yarders (e.g., operated within the manufacturer's specifications, or designed and specified by a registered professional engineer). A member recommended using measurable terms, rather than ambiguous language

like, “suitable conditions.” If developing language for steep slope rules, we should define terms like steep slope, tethering, harvesting, etc.

The issue of requiring demonstrated competency for operators using these machines was raised. The committee also discussed minimum and maximum tension requirements on the tether line.

The question was raised about how Oregon OSHA will handle tethered machine logging that is currently being done before our rule language is developed. Today, if someone wants to use tethered logging systems in Oregon, all applicable requirements in Division 7 must be met, the protective structure on the harvesting machine must be equipped with a certified ROPS, and the manufacturer of the tethered logging system must specify that the system can be operated on slopes in excess of 50 percent, per 437-007-0935(1). Oregon OSHA will discuss using the variance process as an interim measure for systems that do not meet 437-007-0935(1), and will report back to the committee.

Whistle systems:

The group reviewed a draft of recommended whistle systems developed by a member using industry best practices, the current Division 7 whistle systems, and recommendations by the committee during previous meetings. Tom will send out both versions to the committee and give people a chance to respond. The subcommittee will then meet before the next meeting to finalize the recommended changes to the whistle systems.

Securing log loads with machines at log yards:

Tom passed around a photo related to an accident investigation where a log truck driver was struck-by a log that fell off his load while he was removing wrappers in a log yard. The load had not been adequately secured by the machine in use at the time. The group discussed various practices to increase driver safety when unloading trucks at log yards. Encompassing the load may be the best option when the unloading machine has the capability. It was suggested that we invite log yard operators to a future meeting to help us understand their processes and challenges as we move towards developing new rule requirements to better protect drivers.

Reprogramming delimiters for quality control:

Mark Standley shared information about machines that have been programmed to automatically cut logs into predetermined lengths. His finding, from conversations with many operators, is split – some like it and some don't. He wanted the group to be aware of this practice.

Wire rope testing results from West Coast Wire and Flemish eye splice:

Larry shared information about this process. A logger brought up an issue about the worthiness of swaged and power-pac wire rope with a Flemish eye with the strands tucked once. The tester, West Coast Wire Rope, was surprised that the eye pull-tested at 96% of the breaking strength of the line. The cable logging specialist was also surprised at this result. The tester for now still recommends a Flemish/3 tuck eye.

OR-FACE manual “Fallers Logging Safety” distributed by State Street Saw Shop:

Tom recognized the committee for their recommendation to distribute the publication at saw/logging shops to heighten public awareness of the hazards associated with tree felling. As a result of their recommendation, the State Street Saw Shop in Salem has been distributing this manual to all their customers who buy saws. They appreciated the publication, and encourage their customers to use safe practices.

Division 7 operator cab requirements for machines used only for earthmoving:

We need clarification for these machines as well as machines used for other than yarding, loading, timber falling and decking logs. Current cab guarding requirements cover all machines used for forest activities (see Applicability of Rules 437-007-0004). Machines such as mini-excavators and road-side brush cutters fall under the scope Division 7, but those machines are not exposed to the hazards listed above and some cannot be fitted with the required cab guarding.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q1FY2016):

The committee reviewed and discussed the events reported to Oregon OSHA since the last meeting.

Roundtable:

A member shared a citation that a company received for not using all the guylines their yarder was designed to hold. The committee agreed that yarders should be equipped with the number of guylines that manufacturer’s recommends.

A member recommended that Division 7 should include a general minimum safety factor requirement for all load bearing lines when a rule does not specify otherwise (a 3:1 safety factor was suggested). The issue was added to the on-going list of considerations for rulemaking.

Meeting adjourned:

12:25 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, March 10, 2015 at 9 a.m.

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