

Oregon OSHA Forest Activities Advisory Committee

December 11, 2014

9 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Tom Bozicevic	Mark Dvorscak	Jeff Wimer	Larry Kirkpatrick
Stephanie Ficek	Rocky Shampang	Mike Montgomery	Mark Gustafson
Jim Gahlsdorf	Teri Watson	Rod Huffman	John Garland

Tom Bozicevic called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The committee approved the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes.

Continuing Business:

Yarding system whistles signals subcommittee update:

Jeff reported from the subcommittee that he requested input from a variety of people in the logging industry on what whistle signals they use, and how Tom compiled all the sets of Division 7 whistle signals into one document for comparison. Jeff also reviewed the information Steve provided to the subcommittee. The committee discussed which sets of whistle signals are still applicable to eliminate the ones that are no longer relevant. The committee agreed that the whistle signals for tension and skidder systems should be removed; however, employers would still be allowed to use them. Jeff also said the subcommittee asked about definitions for “standing skyline,” and “live skyline.” John has these definitions and he will provide them to Tom. The committee also discussed if there are other systems that we need to consider? John recommended that the whistles should be developed from the perspective of the rigging crew. Jeff voiced a concern for mandatory signals and the hazards associated with a possible learning curve for affected workers. Everyone on the committee agreed that a whistle must be sounded before lines are moved, regardless if radio communications are being used.

Update: Definitions derived from “Overview of Cable Logging Systems and Terminology” by John J. Garland:

Running skyline: A skyline system having two lines which support the load and moves in and out with the turn of logs and carriage. The yarder is often equipped with an interlock that allows drums to turn at different speeds to maintain tension in running lines and support the load.

Live skyline (slack skyline, slacklines): *A skyline system that is not dogged on the drum during the yarding cycle, and is raised and lowered with each turn of logs.*

Standing skyline: *A skyline system fixed at both end, and does not move during the yarding cycle. The skyline may be anchored at both ends separate from the yarder, or one end may be “dogged” on the yarder drum with a locking pawl or “dog”.*

Locational issues for Medevac:

Jim reported that he went to the Oct. 20th town hall meeting in Newport to represent FAAC members and AOL in their opposition to the closure of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Facility in Newport. Rear Admiral Richard Gromlich, commander of the 13th U.S. Coast Guard District also attended. As a result of efforts to keep the facility open by the Newport community, State legislators, Jim and others, on December 10th, the U.S. Congress passed S. 2444 (Coast Guard Reauthorization Bill) prohibiting the closure of any air facility. This bill will ensure that the Newport air facility will be operational through Jan. 1, 2016.

Mark Dvorscak's spoke about the letter to Mark Wigg (ODF) requesting to add lat/long coordinates to the FERNS. Mark reported that they are going through ODF to get a standardized online system to get lat/long coordinates. Mark reported on his emergency plan to use only in a life or death situation. He got approval from Oregon OSHA on this plan and he shared it with the group.

Tags for yoders:

The hazards when using yoders are different than when using a tower. Tom asked the question about tip-overs protection for yoders. John explained that yoders don't need tip-over protection – just front protection. John explained the uniqueness in yoders is that the manufacturers of excavators don't advertise the machine as capable of adding an attachment to be used as a yoder, so they don't have responsibility in a legal sense if the yoder fails. Jim suggested making a definition for yoders, yarders, and Timbermasters. Jeff will try to contact a manufacturer representative to assist with the definitions.

New Business:

Mini-excavators for mechanized logging:

Rod reported that in the field they saw a mini-excavator used for thinning an overgrown Christmas tree farm. Although these machines have ROPS and TOPS, they do not necessarily have the top and front protection from the hazards associated with mechanized harvesting. The AOL staff wants to know what are the requirements for these mini-excavators for this type of work. Rod mentioned that they might request a variance. Tom referred to a handout he distributed regarding the protection on these mini-excavators. He will pull the applicable ISO/SAE standards listed for the machines and bring them to the next meeting to compare them with Division 7 standards.

Single person using a chain saw to clear a road obstruction:

Tom explained this technical question specifically deals with situations where a single person needs to clear a road obstacle that is blocking the only way out. Apparently, this question has been discussed before and may have been allowed in Division 6. Rod mentioned that there are other situations where a single person is allowed to do work, such as firefighting that is outside their normal work. John suggested that if it is regular work, you let status dictate, but for single event, it may be allowed. The group agreed to give allowance to this if it is an occasional event. Rocky referred to the working alone rule. Tom will report back on the interpretation – if it gets approved or not.

UPDATE: Oregon OSHA's policy group agreed with the Forest Activities Advisory Committee's recommendation to allow an employee working alone in the forest to operate a chain saw for the purpose of clearing a downed tree that is blocking the road out. Although such occurrences are unforeseen, employees authorized to perform the potential task must be prepared to do so safely. The employer must ensure that potentially affected employees have received the necessary training to safely operate chain saws and perform bucking activities. All required personal protective equipment must also be available and used (e.g., cut-resistant foot protection, leg protection, eye and face protection, head protection, and hand protection).

If the tree removal activity takes place on a road where there is additional vehicle traffic, the employee must assess the location to determine if oncoming motorists have the necessary line of sight distance, for the conditions at the time, to safely stop- keeping in mind that an oncoming vehicle's noise may not be heard over the operating chain saw. When there is a potential struck-by vehicle hazard, traffic control devices must be placed to warn any oncoming motorists.

Le Tourneaus used to secure log truck loads at log yards:

Tom shared pictures and described a situation where a driver was removing a wrapper and a log came off and struck the driver. John has had about a dozen cases where logs have come off a load while taking off wrappers. He believes that the rules should specify that the load is secured with the machine *against* the load and *encompassing* the load. In Oregon, it is the unloading operator who is responsible to enforce the rules for all parties involved in the operation. Everyone agreed that the rule is inadequate as written. Tom can write a draft rule and bring it to the group.

Oregon OSHA's Logging Newsletter:

Tom reported that Oregon OSHA is working on another logging newsletter. He listed some of the topics for the upcoming newsletter: Oregon OSHA adopts exemption for 437-007-0780, Protective Structures for Operators; Oregon OSHA and WA-DOSH cooperating on Talkie Tooter agreement; introducing the Forest Activities Advisory Committee, OR-FACE resources for the logging industry; and CHAPS standards in Washington; and accidents in forest activities. No other topics were recommended by the committee.

OSHA Grant awards to projects related to forest activities.

Teri reported on three out of four grants that she is working on.

- **NECA/IBEW - NFPA 70E:** *How To" Comply with OSHA Electrical Standards*
- **Oregon State University, College of Forestry - AOL:** *Safe Design of Mobile Anchors*
- **Northwest Forest Worker Center (NWFC):** *Safety and Health in Forestry Workers*

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report:

Tom passed out a sheet that outlines the accidents reported to Oregon OSHA that occurred since the last meeting. Tom shared that he will be adding the report to the group email that contains the meeting agenda to minimize the number of emails members receive. John requested that he also send annual reports. The group discussed some of the fatalities.

UPDATE: The Logging Accidents Reported to Oregon OSHA in 2014 was sent to committee members on January 8, 2015.

Roundtable:

Larry asked a question about the orientation of shackle when putting in a skyline extension – do you put the u-shape toward the yarder and the pin away from the yarder? The rule says to put the pin toward the yarder for a practical reason. It isn't a hazard to do it the way Larry wants to do it and it would be a de minimis violation.

UPDATE: (Provided by Rocky)

437-007-0635(12) When shackles are crossed by carriages, the pin must be facing the landing.

The primary reason for orienting the shackle this way is because it offers less resistance for a loaded carriage. When you look at figure 7-12, you can see that the shackle pin housing end is more lumpy than the other end; a larger bump for the carriage to get over.



Figure 7-12 – Shackle – Flush Pin, Straight Side

Meeting Adjourned:

12:28 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 9 a.m.

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