

**Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
December 14, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Francisca Belart	Jim Geisinger	Greg Pellham
Tom Bozicevic	Mark Gustafson	Dawn Pellham
Heather Case	Ben Hainley	Rocky Shampang
Frank Chandler	Rod Huffman	Bruce Skurdahl
Mike Coiner	Larry Kirkpatrick	Mark Standley
Mark Dvorscak	Tyson Losi	Trena VanDeHey
Jim Gahlsdorf	Teresa Lundy	Teri Watson
John Garland	Brett Morrisette	Vince Wilbur
	Wayne Oja	Jeff Wimer

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The group introduced themselves.

After a discussion of the Highway Traffic Safety Administration's involvement in wrapper strength requirements, **The group approved the September 14, 2017 meeting minutes.**

Continuing Business

Tethered Logging in Washington

Travis Naillon and Lance Grove came down from Washington Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) and did a presentation for the group regarding their work and research on tethered logging. This included a PowerPoint presentation which Tom saved for the group.

Washington L&I has worked to get input from many different sources regarding safety during steep slope logging. They have spoken to groups in New Zealand, British Columbia, and Oregon. They have an advisory committee forming in January to put together best management practices for the industry to utilize. Washington is not looking to create new rules at this time.

Travis and Lance have observed multiple systems, including Summit and Climax. Many of Washington's L&I rules cover their operations, except that they believe they will need to address additional training needed when steep slope logging. They believe there can be a large learning curve to steep slope logging, depending on the owners.

Lance and Travis outlined several areas of concern that their advisory committee will focus on. In these areas, there appeared to be a wide variety of opinions on both sides of what best practices would be. These areas of concern are:

- Machine Securing- How and when to secure the machine, sign placement, and the presence of "home-made" systems.

- Backup and Second Stopping Devices- What qualifies and differing opinions on what is needed or not needed. L&I think it's open to discussion but there are currently concerns with stabilizing the machine in case of a line failure.
- Operators in Base Machines- There is a discussion currently on whether or not someone should be in the machine or not. L&I think there is currently no need to have an operator in the machine unless it's an emergency. It is not a common practice in other countries.
- Working with Timber Fallers- There was discussion here on how onerous it is to work with timber fallers, when cutters can go in, and mess being an issue. All groups seemed to agree that experience plays a part in this going smoothly. New operators should never be allowed to work before cutters.
- Side Washing- There's been a discussion about how helpful this is and how to do it safely. Also concerns with how far to allow a side wash. L&I thinks there needs to be more discussion and training before allowing side washing, which includes hazard assessment and how to choose stumps and trees.
- Falling with a hot sawhead- L&I thinks that there is a possible slope limitation here, prefer the use of grapple saw, bar saw, etc.
- Training- There is much discussion whether it is better to use younger operators or more experienced operators. L&I thinks it is best to use experienced operators and to have them begin at low slopes to learn to offer continuous evaluations and training.
- Securing base machines- Discussion between whether to dig the bucket in or not. L&I thinks with a dozer type machine, it is best to have the blade down with material pushed up.
- Two tree lengths- Some individuals want closer distance, some like two tree lengths. Manufacturers have done some testing on length. L&I thinks they will maintain two tree lengths taking into account the degree of slope, etc. More length when roll over is reasonably foreseeable.

Conclusions: Lance and Travis concluded there is a lot of work to do to get BMP's released. They hope to be done next year and update annually. Operations will continue to change, but they hope to continue to work as a group and collaborate with partners. There are currently 20-30 operations in Washington. Tom told the group he will be attending the L&I meetings as they happen.

Travis and Lance confirmed that two tree lengths is the rule in Washington. The group moved to amend the September 14 meeting minutes to reflect that operation less than two tree lengths is illegal in Washington, as that was previously incorrect in the September meeting minutes. There was concurrence to amend the meeting minutes.

The group asked questions to Lance and Travis, and clarified the basic composition of the operations, and that there were currently no wheeled tethered machines in the study. There have been two hazard alerts for near misses in steep slope logging in Washington.

The committee thanked Lance and Travis for coming and encouraged the continued collaboration between Washington and Oregon. Tom will send out a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to committee members. He will also send the hazard alerts from the Washington SHARP website.

Tethered Logging Variance Update

Tom provided an update regarding tethered logging variances. Oregon OSHA has approved one new tethered logging variance, which was for a new system with a previously approved employer. This brings the total number of research variances allowing tethered logging to 16 employers if the two systems of one employer are counted separately. Tom reminded the group that if the provisions of the variance conflicts with the manufacturer, then the employer has to follow the more stringent requirement.

There was a brief discussion regarding potentially derogatory terms in logging, including the Division 7, Subdivision A term 'siwash', under 437-007-0025 Definitions, which is why Oregon OSHA may change the term to 'sidewash'.

There are new versions of research variance provisions due, which are the same for every employer. They cover different types of machines. Tom will have the provisions ready for the committee to review at the next meeting. Eventually, Tom reminded the group that Oregon OSHA will have to move into rulemaking regarding this issue.

This led to a discussion of BMP's in construction and how they are used.

Securing Log Loads at Log Yards

Tom passed out a draft of an interoffice memo to the group. He suggested that this could also be written as a hazard alert as well. This memo is the result of work the committee has been doing to clarify log load securement requirements when unloading at log yards. This is meant to be guidance for the public as well as compliance officers. Tom identified two methods most common in log yards- machine secured or fixed wrapper rack (both adjustable and non-adjustable) and reminded the group that the intention of the word 'secure' has to work for each type of method. The group talked about the intention of securing loads, and tentatively came to a consensus that 'secured' means preventing a log from going over the stake on the side where wrappers and binders are removed. However, the group then discussed the presence of shorter logs, which lie between the stakes and do not abut either stake.

The group agreed that the bump against method would not be acceptable to secure a load, since logs could still fall off the load. The group discussed that one of the keys to securing a load is to prevent a log from going over the stakes, but not tightly encompassing it as to create new hazards. Some in the group felt that securing loads at landings should be addressed as a separate issue. There were some questions and concerns with the wording in the final paragraph of the memo, acknowledging that log yards should be protective of all workers, not just workers under OSHA jurisdiction.

The group discussed some safety measures they had seen in some log yards, and some measures log yards could take to be more safe, including prohibiting walking under the tusks/carriage and the possibility that the yard should have their own wrapper release person. There was a discussion of mill's responsibilities for safety and potentially loose application of rules. The group continued to discuss the inability for many drivers to pull in within a certain distance of a wrapper rack, due to both debris and the small size of some logs.

The group then discussed that securing is most likely contact with the load either head on or downward. The group then proposed new language for 437-007-1110(2) and discussed it as it related to the meaning of the word 'secure'. Some members of the group expressed concern for

the burden having every single load secured by contact would put on smaller yards or more crowded yards. Tom stated he would take the discussion and the proposed language back and consider it when revising the draft. The group also discussed the involvement of log yard employers in any potential rulemaking or regulation changes, as they would be stakeholders. The group opposed starting another group, but agreed that their input should be solicited.

Framed Vehicle Definition

A committee member presented follow up research to the group regarding the definition of a framed vehicle. A handout was passed out to the group outlining different jurisdictions' definitions of a framed vehicle and a pole trailer. This included a few picture examples of a pole trailer and a hayrack/frame trailer. The group concluded that in Oregon, a pole trailer could be considered a framed vehicle, but that the definitions are vague and confusing. Oregon OSHA appears to be more stringent than federal law. The group had a brief discussion of the breaking load of wrappers..

Two-way radio communication for workers who are single jacking

Tom introduced an document with the group as standard interpretation to employers regarding radio communication among workers who are single jacking. Tom took the committee members comments into account at the last meeting and revised the document. During this discussion, the committee took issue with requiring workers to carry a battery backup, citing weight, potential for injury (batteries getting warm inside a bag without being hooked up), and lack of evidence of radios dying within one day as reasons for their concern. The group discussed the use of radios by cutters and the current types and brands of radios. The committee moved to remove item #3 from this interpretation and that motion was approved. There was a discussion of the time requirement of 15 minutes. The group did not reach a consensus, but discussed being within 15 of sight of the other person and being a 'reasonable distance away to render assistance'. He group agreed that language needed to be changed to be clearer about allowing compliance with either the current rule *or* the provisions in the guidance memo. Tom will discuss the new comments with Oregon OSHA's policy group for approval.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q4/FY2017)

The committee reviewed the accidents reported to Oregon OSHA since the previous meeting. Some committee members provided clarification regarding the events which lead to the October 31st fatality.

Roundtable:

The group tabled FPIinnovations and briefly went over reporting requirements for reporting fatalities and injuries to Oregon OSHA. Tom provided a handout outlining the reporting rules.

Meeting adjourned 12:22 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

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