Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
September 8, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Steve Aulerich	John Garland	Nate McMurtrey
Gary Beck	Jon Greenup	Rocky Shampang
Tom Bozicevic	Mark Gustafson	Bruce Skurdahl
Mike Coiner	Rod Huffman	Mark Standley
Mark Dvorscak	Larry Kirkpatrick	Renee Stapleton
Jim Gahlsdorf	Tyson Losli	

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

The group introduced themselves

The group approved the June 9, 2016 meeting minutes.

Continuing Business:

Tethered logging variance update –

As of today, Oregon OSHA has issued 9 research variances for tethered logging: 5 EMS Systems, 3 Summit Attachments Systems, and 1 ROB System. No variances have or will be issued for machines that are not equipped with a certified ROPS. We anticipated more employers applying for a variance at this point, but it may be due to a significant backorder of the equipment from the manufacturer. Originally, we said machine must be used for tethered logging only; however, one system (Summit attachments) is designed as dual purpose. Generally, the manufacturer has conducted all the engineering and research to determine their equipment's safe use. Duel purpose equipment may be used according to the design specification and transition recommendation of the manufacturer.

A question was asked regarding out of service condition for the rope, and OR-OSHA responded with the same as Division 7. The entire tethering rope would need to be replaced after 2000 hours of use unless there is a need to replace the rope sooner due to damage and manufacturer recommendations.

Variances require reporting in January and June of each year, but not all employers have received their equipment yet. This reporting includes “adverse events,” including, but not limited to, tip-overs with or without incurred bodily injury.

A research grant is underway with Oregon State University College of Forestry regarding tethered logging. They will be interviewing operators to see what they are experiencing on steep slope sites. At the conclusion of the study, a research paper will be available. NIOSH has funded a 3 year grant for steep slope machines. New Zealand is starting to see accidents relating to tethered logging operations. Some accidents may not be reported.

According to a committee member, CimbMAX machines are expected to be available to North America soon.

Some companies are using a tethered skidder on 50 – 60 percent slopes. This is considered to be an incredible time saver and may be more used than tethering feller-bunchers. The skidder can move conservatively half a truckload. This can leading to 1.5 – 2 times more wood production. The method reduces cost and increase productivity.

Securing log loads with machines when removing wrappers –

It the rules in the yards are not effective, the facility needs to develop means and methods for safety of the log truck driver. There needs to be a positive means to secure the load which could include encompassing. A committee member recommended that if you can encompass the load, you should. Another suggestion was to have the stakes extend 14’ and not allow any logs above the stakes (no hump in the middle). Also recommended was that the log yard machine operator should evaluate the load with the log truck driver.

There is some concern about the method of “bumping” the load to secure it. It is unlikely that the log handling machine was designed to use the method. In some cases you could only be affecting 1/3 of the load by bumping.

Another suggestion was to do as it is done at shipyards – the logs are unloaded while they are still banded.

Another issue discussed is that sometimes drivers sit and wait for 1.5 – 2 hours to unload. During this time they are not getting paid. When it’s their turn to unload, they are anxious and start removing the wrappers before there is securement.

The note in the rule about having a stable load w/out wrappers should be removed.

Factor of safety for wire rope –

One of the members compiled the wire rope breaking strength ratings of three major rope manufacturers and created a table of these ratings to use in a future Division 7 appendix (non-mandatory). The information uses a safety factor of 3:1. The three manufacturer rating lists (based on rope diameter and type) were compared, and the lowest breaking strength ratings of the three manufacturers were recommended for the appendices. There use to be an Appendix (80-M) in the logging code but that was removed prior to the adoption of Division 7.

There should also be a reference put into Division 7 to reference this appendix. A possible place to reference it would be in the site planning section.

Definitions would be helpful or pictures (ex. double compacted).

One thing to keep in mind is that the length of the lay in the line could be different from each manufacturer, which could cause it to spool incorrectly.

New Business:

Program Directive for tethered logging –

Oregon OSHA is developing a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) on tethered logging. The current LEP on Struck-by hazards specifically excludes mechanized logging. The intent behind the LEP would be to ensure that the equipment is being used properly in the field, and to identify employers who are using tethered logging systems without a variance on slopes more than the applicable slope limit under 437-007-0935(1). Once this new technology has established a safe history of use and any future rulemaking is completed, the LEP may change or be revoked.

A concern was voiced about an LEP draw more inspection activity, which may cause a deterrent from using this equipment. Such a concern has not been a deterrent for traditional logging methods covered under the Struck-by LEP.

Wrappers –

5/16” wire rope is used regularly in the industry as a wrapper because 3/8” is very heavy and can significantly contribute to soft tissue injuries when drivers throw them over log loads. However, 5/16” EIPS wire rope does not meet the 15,000 lbs. breaking strength requirement. The breaking strength eye to eye is 9,000 lbs., but the straight pull is 20,000 lbs. The rule is not clear on the whether it is eye to eye or straight pull. The local manufacturer has been selling them as

“cables/chains” rather than wrappers because they know that it does not meet the breaking strength requirement for wrapper. Last two worker comp cases were shoulder injuries from throwing 5/16” wrappers. Nearly all the wrappers on the truck now are 5/16”, and employers believe they are in compliance.

Stretchers –

It was suggested that stretchers are discussed at the upcoming AOL Safety Conference in Lebanon. A demonstration of a Stokes Basket would be helpful. A recent accident showed that a conventional folding stretcher was not adequate to safely transport an injured worker up steeper slopes. Since the Coast Guard will not use your basket for lifting purposes, if you put a blanket down before placing the victim in the basket, the Coast Guard could transfer the victim to their basket easier. A suggestion for rulemaking is to require that stretchers be designed for steep-slope extractions when the workplace necessitates it.

Division 7 Rulemaking –

Tom has been going through the list recommended changes to Division 7 that the committee has made since he has been involved with the FAAC. Once he has developed the first draft of changes, he will share it with the committee.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q4FY2016)

The committee discussed the 6 fatalities and 4 hospitalizations that occurred or were identified since the last meeting.

Roundtable

QUESTION: Do cable yarding operations with two crews each setting chokers require two bugs for each crew?

ANSWER: In most cases yes. The consensus of the committee is that there are too many variables to ensure that each crew effectively watches out for the other crew. These variables include, but are not limited to, distance, visual obstructions, inclement weather, and being distracted when performing assigned duties

> ***437-007-0925(9)*** *At least two members of the rigging crew must carry transmitters for each signal and control system being operated where chokers are being set.*

Next Meeting – December 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.