

OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2004

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mike Mitchell. The location was the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon. An attendance sheet was passed around as the minutes from the June 14th meeting were reviewed and approved. Thirteen committee members and two guests were in attendance. John Mack and Ed Wilson notified the committee that they would not be able to attend.

Attendees

Mark Ayers
Larry Goff
Earl Cordes
Don Jenson
Don Stauffer
Bob Garrison
Paul Esselstyn
Jim Kusz
Tim Dahl
Ty Walthers
Daryl Rozendal
Jason Jantzi
Mike Mitchell
Dan Rossos (guest)
Barry Jones (guest)

Representing

DPSST
Oregon Fire District Directors Association
Small Fire Departments
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Large Fire Departments
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Medium Size / Coastal Fire Departments
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Large Fire Departments
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Oregon OSHA
Oregon OSHA
NFPA 1403 Committee
Oregon OSHA

Old Business:

Leg protection when using chain saws: Mike Mitchell distributed copies of a memo addressed to all OR-OSHA Staff, dated July 2, 2004. The subject was “Leg Protection for Fire Fighters Using Chain Saws”. The memo states that when using a chain saw for structural ventilation or another activity directly related to fire fighting, or when training for such an activity, the use of chaps or leg protectors by fire fighters is not required when: (1). The fire fighter is trained and proficient in the safe use of a chain saw; and (2). Turn-out trousers are worn. All other (non-fire fighting) uses of a chain saw (such as cleaning up a fire scene or performing yard work around the station) require chaps or leg protectors to be worn.

Comments about the use of chain saws by fire fighters, made by committee members at the June meeting, assisted in the development of the memo. The memo was reviewed and well received by all in attendance. A question was asked if chaps must be worn when starting saws for inspection purposes. Barry Jones, Oregon OSHA's Enforcement Policy Manager, stated that leg protection is not required when chain saws are started up as part of an inspection process as long as they are not used, and are immediately shut off when the inspection process is complete.

OR-OSHA's role in responding to disasters or terrorist events: Barry Jones, Oregon OSHA's Enforcement Policy Manager, attended the meeting (at the request of the Committee) to answer questions about his May 12th letter to the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association regarding the role of OR-OSHA during a disaster or terrorist event. Barry emphasized that Oregon OSHA will only respond to large events where there is a need for skills and services that health and safety professionals can provide. OR-OSHA will not respond in an enforcement role. The Committee did not have any questions for Barry. The subject of the letter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association. Barry had already been invited to that meeting and was planning to attend.

Development of minimum requirements for live fire training: An article from Firehouse.com, sent to the committee by Eriks Gabliks, titled "Report Cites Major Firefighter Training Flaws In Florida Recruit's Death" was distributed for review. Inadequate planning for a live fire training exercise, as outlined in the article, led to the death of a young fire fighter.

Drip torches: An e-mail (from Ty Walthers) was reviewed regarding a request for an interpretation from Dan Rossos (an NFPA 1403 Committee member) about NFPA 1403's position on ignition sources, as opposed to fuel sources. The interpretation was requested in response to last meeting's discussion about the use of drip torches as ignition sources.

Live-fire training rules: Work continued on developing minimum requirements for live fire training continued. Dan Rossos, a member of the NFPA 1403 Committee, stated that every death in recent years, dealing with live fire training, has been the result of some deviation from 1403. NFPA 1403 is designed as a step-by-step tool for management to use. When dealing with qualifications for instructors, NFPA 1403 is fairly vague on the subject. The term "appropriate training" is used so as to allow individual departments to choose their own instructors (competent in the needed skills and knowledge), following the step-by-

step approach of 1403 document (this is performance-based approach, much like OR-OSHA's approach to safety in many of the standards). After discussing the idea of developing OR-OSHA standards for live fire training instructors, the consensus of the committee was to ask the DPSST Fire Policy Committee to develop such standards. Those standards can then be included in an appendix (with ones specifically for safety/health bulleted) at the end of the Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters.

Drip torches: Discussion moved to drip torches. Dan Rossos explained that the NFPA 1403 Committee's failure to address drip torches apparently resulted as the result of an oversight of not identifying ignition sources. The subject was discussed the 1403 Committee in the past, but nothing made it into the standard. Dan suggested that the OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee petition the NFPA 1403 Subcommittee on Ignition Sources to allow the use of drip torches. The subcommittee will meet in three weeks. Instructions and forms for petitioning NFPA were distributed. Don Jenson and Earl Cordes will send a letter to the NFPA Standards Committee asking for development of standards for ignition sources, including drip torches.

New Business:

Mission statement: Time ran out before new business could be addressed. Don Jenson was asked to briefly present his idea for developing a mission statement for the Oregon Fire Fighters Advisory Committee, with written guidelines and objectives. Such a document will provide continuity and guidance for the committee as time passes and members changes. This topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 27th, at 10:00 a.m. The location will be the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem. The decision was made not to have a meeting in August because of the need to stay close to home during fire season.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Addendum:

These minutes were approved at the 9/27/04 meeting.