

# **OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2006**

### **Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. in the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, in Salem. This meeting was originally scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>, but was moved to this date due to scheduling conflicts. Everyone introduced themselves while the attendance roster was circulated. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, discussed, and approved (the minutes were corrected to include Toledo Fire as part of the live-fire training exercise involving North Lincoln Fire).

### **Attendees**

Doug Kollermier  
Larry Goff  
Terry Riley  
Marilyn Schuster  
Peg Munsell  
Matt Ennis  
Don Stauffer  
James Oeder  
Jack Carriger  
Ron Haverkost  
Jim Kusz  
Mark Walker  
Mike Mitchell

### **Representing**

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association  
Oregon Fire District Directors Association  
DPSST  
Oregon OSHA  
Oregon OSHA  
Career Departments  
Career Departments  
Oregon Volunteer Fire Fighters Association  
Oregon Volunteer Fire Fighters Association  
Oregon OSHA  
Combination Departments  
Career Departments  
Oregon OSHA

**New Business** (Order of business was reversed to fit into presenter's schedules)

**Training:** Marilyn Schuster distributed a list of Oregon OSHA enforcement inspections conducted from October 2005 to September 2006, involving fire departments. The list was reviewed. Discussion followed about the uniformity and adequacy of safety training, including knowledge of Oregon OSHA's requirements, for fire departments in Oregon, of all sizes, and in all locations. Confined space entry rules, and training for fire departments was discussed. Ron Haverkost proposed that Oregon OSHA might develop a training document for fire departments to high light the major rules in Divisions 1 and 2 that apply to fire departments in addition to those in 2/L, OAR 437-0182, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters. The Committee liked the idea.

**Overhead high voltage lines:** The Committee then moved to the next item of business. Ron Haverkost made a presentation about the hazards (and requirements) of working near energized overhead high voltage lines. Ron Haverkost showed a CD and reviewed the details of an incident that he recently investigated (that could have easily resulted in multiple fatalities) involving the contact of an Albany Fire Department aerial ladder/snorkel with an energized overhead high voltage line while fighting a fire, in May 2006. The photos, combined with Ron's presentation drove home the point that no one, for any reason, should ever violate the 10 foot rule. Ron's investigation uncovered two alarming revelations: (1) it appears some fire fighters are unaware of Oregon OSHA's OAR 437-002-0322 (and other rules) prohibiting employees, or anything else, from coming closer than 10 feet (plus a few inches depending on voltage) to a energized overhead high-voltage line. Apparently they are also unaware of the Oregon Overhead Line Safety Act, ORS 757.805, which applies to everyone in Oregon; and (2) a lack of awareness that Oregon OSHA rules other than those located in Division 2/L, OAR 437-002-0182, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters, apply to their fighting activities. Discussion followed. One interesting note about the recent contact incident was that the local utility crew had arrived at the scene in plenty of time to identify the hazards and de-energize the lines. The only problem was that the crew was stopped and not allowed to cross the line by a police officer who had been told to keep everyone away from the scene. Several committee members requested copies of the CD. Mike Mitchell requested that anyone wanting a copy of the CD e-mail (or otherwise) get their mailing address to him and a copy will be sent. Committee members were also encouraged to spread the word about staying at least 10 feet away from all overhead power lines, and to contact their local utilities for training and pre-planning. If anyone needs assistance in working with their local utilities, contact either Mike Mitchell or Ron Haverkost. Both work closely with utilities on another committee.

### **Old Business**

**Website posting:** In response to the suggestion made at the last meeting to post the Committee Roster on the OR-OSHA website, Marilyn Schuster agreed that it is a good idea and suggested that, in addition to the roster, meeting minutes, the Charter, and Oregon OSHA contact information should also be posted. The Committee agreed. No one objected to having their phone numbers posted. Mike Mitchell will pursue the project.

**Air bottles:** Peggy Munsell passed out copies of a letter of interpretation to Pat West, dated April 16, 1991, and revised July 31, 2006. The third answer in the letter addresses the question of whether air bottles from one manufacturer may be

used with another manufacturer's regulator. OR-OSHA policy permits the use of another manufacturer's cylinders in emergency, lifesaving situations, although this temporarily voids the NIOSH certification. Following this emergency, SCBA's must be returned to their original NIOSH approved condition. An example and explanation is given. It's important to make sure that the specs of the cylinder and the respirator match (capacity and pressure rating). The letter is located at <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/interps/1991/carlbelow.pdf>.

**Water-rescue training:** Jim Kusz was asked to report on any new developments involving swift-water rescue training. He reported that he and Tim Dahl are still hopeful that a "Water-rescue Summit" can be developed. More information should be available at the next meeting.

**Circular saw blades:** Mike Mitchell distributed copies of, and reviewed the OR-OSHA Hazard Alert, dated April 7, 2003, addressing the use of inappropriate circular blades used on portable powered cut-off saws that have led to the blades coming free. He then distributed a letter from Brian Magnus, DTI-Wedge, Inc., of Chicago, offering assistance to fire departments in finding blades for their saws that meet their needs and are safe. Nine sample blades for trial use, and copies of the specs for K-5 and K-9 Rescue Series Diamond blades were distributed. Committee members who took the blades were asked to get back to Mike Mitchell with their comments about the blades. It was also suggested that committee members could communicate directly with Mr. Magnus, at 800 323-1282. Mike stressed that Oregon OSHA is not promoting any particular blade or company. Mr. Magnus had heard about the ongoing difficulty in finding adequate, safe blades for use on cut-off saws, had found the hazard alert on Oregon OSHA's website, and then contacted Mike to offer assistance. The link to the hazard alert is <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/hazards/hazalrtsaw.pdf>.

### **Wrap Up**

Mike Mitchell asked the Committee if anyone had any suggestions for needed rule making or changes related to 2/L, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters, in the coming year. No one had any suggestions at this time. If someone thinks of something, they should e-mail their idea to Mike Mitchell at [michael.l.mitchell@state.or.us](mailto:michael.l.mitchell@state.or.us), or Ron Haverkost at [ronald.l.haverkost@state.or.us](mailto:ronald.l.haverkost@state.or.us).

**The next meeting** of the Oregon OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 25, 2007**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The location will be the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon 97301.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Note:

These minutes have not yet been reviewed and approved by the Committee.