Oregon OSHA – Adopted Changes to 
Division 2/L – Oregon Rules for Firefighters 
In General Industry

Oregon OSHA proposed amendments to OAR 437-002-0182 Oregon Rules for Firefighters, in April 2015. Five public hearings were held during May and June with many attendees giving testimony. We also received written comments during the comment period that closed on June 19, 2015.

Oregon OSHA considered all oral and written statements received during the comment period. While there was both support and concern for some of the rule changes proposed, the majority of the comments received were in opposition of requiring NFPA Fire Fighter I as the minimum level of training for firefighters who participate in interior structural firefighting activities. Although these stakeholders agreed that NFPA Fire Fighter I is a level of training for all fire service agencies to strive towards, mandating it as a requirement would negatively impact volunteer recruitment and retention. While the final rule retains the training requirement for NFPA Fire Fighter I for interior structural firefighting, an option was added that allows firefighters who meet the minimum job performance requirements for NFPA Fire Fighter I, as prescribed by NFPA 1403 (2012), to participate in interior structural firefighting activities when under the direct supervision of a firefighter trained to NFPA Fire Fighter I or higher.

Additional changes to the proposed rule as a result of public comments included, but are not limited to, adding back portions of the current rule that were revised or removed (e.g., annual review and evaluation of firefighters’ physical capabilities, employer and employee responsibilities, etc.); updating NFPA 1561 (2007) to the 2014 edition; and adding recommendations to the non-mandatory Appendix B (e.g., training in the New Science of the Underwrites Laboratory (UL) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and an additional recommendation to reduce exposure to apparatus gasoline and diesel exhaust gases.

Comments to change the proposed rule in a manner that could increase the proposed financial impact for fire service agencies (e.g., 10 year retirement for turnout gear, mandatory diesel exhaust source capture systems, etc.), could not be made at this time; however, they will be saved for future consideration.

This is Oregon OSHA Administrative Order 4-2015, adopted October 23, 2015, and effective July 1, 2016.

Oregon OSHA contact: 
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PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon
Occupational Safety and Health Division

Agency and Division
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Upon filing,
Adopted on
07/01/2016
Effective date

RULE CAPTION

Adopt changes to Oregon Rules for Firefighters in general industry, Division 2/L.
Not more than 15 words

RULEMAKING ACTION

ADOPT:

AMEND: 437-002-0182

REPEAL:

RENUMBER:

AMEND & RENUMBER:

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2), 656.726(4)

Other Auth.: 

Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 - 654.295

RULE SUMMARY

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Authorized Signer

Printed Name

Date

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