



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (Oregon OSHA)

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Randy Ingraham

Associated Oregon Loggers Inc. PO Box 12339

Salem OR 97309-0339

Dear Mr. Ingraham:

This is in response to your October 28, 1996, letter in which you ask for a rule interpretation on whether a loader operator with a physical limitation that prevents them from fighting fires should be given fire suppression training.

OAR 437-007-1325 requires Basic Wildland Fire Safety Training for all employees who *may be* called upon by their employer to perform fire suppression activities. If the person, because of physical limitations, would not be called upon to fight fires, they would not be required to take the training.

However, fire suppression activities can involve equipment operation that a person with physical limitations may be capable of performing on an active fire. Such activities include, but are not limited to, dozer operation to construct fire lines and driving water tenders to deliver water to staging areas. Training would be required so operators will know how fires spread in forest areas and how to identify and plan safe ways to escape a fire, especially if working in a canyon area.

If we can be of further assistance, you can contact us at 503-378-3272 or tech.web@oregon.gov. You can also learn more about Oregon OSHA on our website at osha.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

Trena VanDeHey, Standards & Technical Resources Manager
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division