

# Forest Activities News

from Oregon OSHA

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## Introducing the Forest Activities Advisory Committee

The **Forest Activities Advisory Committee** assists Oregon OSHA in developing, interpreting, and applying forest activities (**Division 7**) rules. Committee members include employers and representatives from Oregon State University College of Forestry, Associated Oregon Loggers, the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the USDA Forest Service, and Oregon OSHA.

The committee and Oregon OSHA work to address worksite hazards resulting from conventional work practices and applications of new technology for the industry. The committee meets quarterly. Meeting minutes are posted on Oregon OSHA's website (click "Advisory committees" on Oregon OSHA's A-Z Topics webpage and look for "Forest activities advisory committee").

## Oregon OSHA adopts exemption to 437-007-0780 (Protective Structures for Operators)

In May 2014, Oregon OSHA, at the recommendation of the **Forest Activities Advisory Committee**, adopted an exception to **437-007-0780** (*Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Used On or After July 1, 2014.*) The exception applies to machines manufactured before July 1, 2004, that are equipped and maintained with a front

and top guard structure that meets the performance criteria of SAE J1356:FEB88 or ISO 10262:1998 Level II. The exception became effective July 1, 2014.

The requirements for cabs in **437-007-0775** (*Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Manufactured On or After July 1, 2004*) have not changed.

## Oregon OSHA proposing changes to recordkeeping and reporting requirements

Oregon OSHA is **proposing changes** to its recordkeeping and reporting rule (**437-001-0700**, Division 1). The proposed changes include recent changes that federal OSHA made to its recordkeeping rule (29 CFR 1904) and other changes specific to Oregon employers. The proposed changes are tentatively scheduled to be adopted in March 2015, but they will not become effective until

January 2016. In the meantime, you should continue to follow the requirements in Oregon OSHA's current recordkeeping and reporting rule, **437-001-0700**.

You will find more information about the proposed changes to Oregon OSHA's recordkeeping and reporting rule on Oregon OSHA's "**Rules**" webpage (click on "**Proposed changes to rules**").

## OR-FACE offers resources for the logging industry

OR-FACE (Oregon Occupational Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) is a NIOSH-sponsored program that tracks work-related acute trauma fatalities and provides employers with information on how the fatalities could have been prevented. OR-FACE publications include Toolbox talks, Hazard alerts, and other materials, many of which are relevant to logging. OR-FACE materials are available on the **Oregon Health & Science University website** (search for "OR-FACE").

## Oregon State, Northwest Forest Worker Center receive training grants

Oregon OSHA recently awarded training grants to Oregon State University's College of Forestry and the Northwest Forest Worker Center. The College of Forestry will produce materials on the safe design of mobile anchors. The Northwest Forest Worker Center will focus on low-literacy Latino workers in southern Oregon to prevent traumatic injuries by avoiding slips, trips, and falls.

## FAQ: Leg protection and slash cuts

### What are Oregon OSHA's leg-protection requirements for loggers who operate chain saws?

Employers must provide their employees with, and require them to wear, flexible ballistic nylon pads, chaps, or other equivalent protection that protects their legs from the top of the thigh to the top of the boot from contact with the moving chain. To better prevent cuts to the legs, secure safety insert pads so they cannot move around inside pants or chaps in the event of a saw chain strike.

### Can slash cuts be used to fall trees more than 6 inches diameter-at-breast height (DBH)?

No. All trees or snags more than 6 inches DBH must have an acceptable face and undercut. If a worker is not sure how to safely fall a tree, the tree must not be cut until the worker confers with a supervisor or a qualified person to identify the safest possible procedure to do the job. See **437-007-0810(15)**, *Manual falling, When trees or snags are over 6 inches DBH.*



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## Logging accidents reported to Oregon OSHA: 2014

There were 13 fatalities and 17 hospitalizations reported to Oregon OSHA in 2014; other logging accidents also occurred outside Oregon OSHA's jurisdiction. Struck-by injuries were the leading cause of injury.

Date	Event	Outcome	Date	Event	Outcome
Dec. 30	Caught on – A worker cut vine maple before felling a tree. When he cut down the tree, the vine maple caught him and pulled him down a hill.	Hospitalized	Jul. 23	Struck by – A worker choked a log and started to get out of the way as the carriage was sent back to the yarder engineer, but the log swung around and struck him.	Hospitalized
Dec. 2	MVA – Three workers died when their vehicle left the road in heavy fog, struck an embankment, and rolled 300 feet down a ravine.	Fatality	Jul. 17.	Struck by – An apprentice buckler was struck by a felled tree that swung in his direction.	Hospitalized
Nov. 26	Crushed by – A worker was hit while moving a yarder.	Fatality	Jul. 11	Struck by – A log fell off a loaded log truck and struck the worker as he was adjusting wrappers.	Hospitalized
Nov. 25	Struck by – A cutter was struck in the leg by a piece of wood.	Hospitalized	Jun. 27	Struck by – A worker was run over by a tractor truck while he was hooking up a tractor trailer.	Fatality
Nov. 12	Struck by – A worker was cutting the backside of a tree when he slipped and fell below the stump. The tree came down on top of him.	Hospitalized	Jun. 19	Struck by – A worker was struck by a tree that had grown into another tree he was trying to fall.	Fatality
Nov. 4	Struck by – A worker was struck by a felled tree as he was driving through an active logging area.	Fatality	May 19	Struck by – A worker was falling a tree when he was struck by a limb that fell out of another tree.	Hospitalized
Oct. 15	MVA – A log truck veered into a small gully and the load of logs went through the cab, killing the driver.	Fatality	May 15	Unknown medical event – A worker became ill on his first day of employment and died en route to the hospital.	Fatality
Oct. 13	MVA – A log truck driver swerved to miss an oncoming vehicle that strayed across the center line. The truck drove into a ditch and rolled over.	Hospitalized	May 6	Struck by – A worker who was not in the clear was struck by a drop line.	Hospitalized
Oct. 13	Struck by – A worker was struck by the carriage.	Hospitalized	Apr. 22	Struck by – A worker operating a caterpillar tractor was impaled by a tree that slid through the back of the machine.	Hospitalized
Oct. 8	Struck by – A piece of wood rolled down a hill and struck a worker on his back.	Hospitalized	Apr. 13	Struck by – A worker was spooling cable when his hand got caught in the drum.	Hospitalized
Sep. 24	Caught between – A timber faller was pinned by two felled fir trees at the bottom of a draw.	Fatality	Mar. 20	Struck by – Rigging slinger was struck in the leg by a gut shot log.	Hospitalized
Sep. 5	Struck against – A hydraulic log loader being used to load a log truck tipped when the edge of the road gave way. Something in the cab struck the operator.	Hospitalized	Feb. 6	Struck by – A timber faller was struck by a limb that fell from a tree he was falling.	Fatality
Aug. 14	Struck against – A worker slipped when he was getting into a track skidder.	Fatality	Jan. 20	Struck by – A worker was thrown from a crawler tractor that rolled down a hill.	Hospitalized
			Jan. 9	Struck by – A worker was falling a tree when it kicked back and struck him.	Hospitalized
			Jan. 7	MVA – A log truck crashed when the driver lost sight of the road in heavy fog.	Fatality