

Agricultural Labor Housing RAC

April 26, 2023 / 10am-12pm

Meeting held via Zoom

1. Opening/welcome – Sarah Rew

2. Attendee's list:

- a. Alexia Gamboa, Ann Billette, Brian Clark, Candy Carnes, David Hurtado, Dora Herrera, Erin Roby, Glenn Muna, Greig Lowell, Ira Cuello Martinez, Jen Seamens, Julie Love, Kate Ryan, Kate Suisman, Lauren Kuenzi, Laurie Hofer, Marissa Hokenson, Martha Sonato, Matt Borman, Michael Sterner, Mike Doke, Nargess Shadbeh, Nicole Mann, Sarah Rew, Scott Dilley, Sherry Marks, Stacey Cooper, Tim, Jennifer Stewart

3. Legislative update: Greig Lowell

- a. HB 2001 – This has been signed into law. Grant program of \$5 million plus \$524,000 for administration related to grant program.
- b. HB 3555 – This has been referred to Ways & Means. \$10 million for community housing related to agricultural employment.

4. Draft language review:

a. Carbon monoxide detectors

- i. The group reviewed requirements from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and discussed whether a CO detector should be required in every unit, or only those with a fuel source (current rules do require appropriate venting). The group also acknowledged that though Oregon's landlord/tenant laws have rules for CO detectors, ALH is excepted from those rules.

b. Emergency plans (or, directions to housing for EMS)

- i. The group discussed the possibility of posting written directions to the housing site inside each unit so that in case of emergency the caller could direct EMS to their exact location. Language barriers were brought up, as well as the difficulty of navigating farm roads (which are sometimes gated shut), or in rural areas. It appears that 911 throughout Oregon has GPS for callers, however GPS maps don't reflect when roads are blocked by gates; additionally, cell phones connected to WIFI don't appear to show their location coordinates.

A suggestion was made that perhaps better directions from the road to the housing would be more protective. Members requested that if outside signage were required (in addition to the current rule for house numbers being visible from the road), that the rule clearly state what the requirement is so employers can comply.

c. Well water test results

- i. The group discussed posting well water test results in/near the housing, and the possibility of a pictogram (that Oregon OSHA would create) that could be used as a universal symbol (when there is a language barrier). There was some concern that a pictogram may not accurately represent test results. The group also briefly discussed increasing the frequency of testing. ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture) regulates well water – Oregon OSHA will continue to consult with their requirements.

A link to [HB 3207](#) was dropped in the chat which proposes to update requirements for well water testing during real estate transactions.

d. Space heater notification

- i. The group discussed adding notification to the current space heater rule (space heaters are required when there is no permanent heat source). Employers asked what would constitute notification and asked if notifying new workers during orientation would suffice. Oregon OSHA stated they would create a pictogram that could be used to satisfy this in case of a language barrier.

5. **New topics:** Members asked that hotels and motels be added to the discussion, as well as conversation surrounding what constitutes a structurally sound home.
6. **Adjournment:** The meeting ended at approximately 12 p.m.
7. **Next meeting:** May 31, 2023