

Oregon OSHA
Construction Advisory Committee
Tuesday May 6, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Barry Moreland	Ian Chase	Marilyn Schuster
Brian Silbernagel	Jeff Wilson	Mark Tobiasson
Dede Montgomery	Kevin Wheatcroft	Peg Munsell
Gary Beck	Larry Lovelady	Nathan Taylor
Kevin Jensen	Bryan Davis	Jonathon Murders

The meeting was called to order by Mark Tobiasson, chair.
Self introductions were made.

Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed by the group. Barry Moreland made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Ian Chase.

It was agreed to continue to include the Accident/Fatality report into the meeting minutes.

There was some discussion about OSHA 30 cards expiring. No one was aware of an expiration date set by OSHA. Some training entities appear to be indicating expiration dates on their OSHA 30 training and some employers and general contractors are setting expiration dates.

Lessons Learned:

An incident was discussed where a drywall sub contract employee had a pair of stilts that collapsed/failed resulting in the employee breaking his arm. An investigation revealed that the employee had performed a repair on the stilts earlier using fabricated parts and not parts provided by the manufacturer.

An incident was discussed that involved an experienced excavator operator who was interrupted by a phone call while in the process of attaching a bucket to the boom. Likely due to the phone distraction, the operator forgot where he was in the attachment process and failed to ensure the bucket was fully attached. This resulted in the bucket being accidentally “tossed” into the trench that was being worked on. Fortunately no one was in the direct area at the time. This sparked a discussion about the various types of attachment methods and coupling systems available and the need to ensure operators are familiar with how they work and how they are to be used.

A similar situation was relayed that occurred involving a crane. The operator was distracted during a final walk around inspection resulting in at least one item being missed in the inspection. The company created a formal check list and protocol that included prohibiting the operator from answering the phone during certain critical tasks. Particular crane components were painted with an easily identifiable color to identify critical components.

The use of bell & nub chokers for installing pipe in trenches was discussed. One employer discovered a company policy prohibiting the use of this system, but posed the question of why this system, which was acceptable in the logging industry, was not a viable option. Individuals felt that as long as molten vs. swedge nubbins were used, that it was appropriate. This was followed by discussion of ensuring that rigging is properly tagged, inspected, tested, and used.

Rules:

The public hearing on May 9, 2014 in Eugene was announced for the [proposed changes](#) to the **Oxygen Fuel Gas Welding and Cutting, Compressed gas, and Acetylene** rules which will apply to both general industry and construction. One of the changes mentioned was related to keeping full and empty cylinders separated. The question asked was what is the hazard associated with storing the same content cylinder whether full or empty together? Peggy Munsell agreed to provide clarification to the members prior to the public hearing.

Federal OSHA published in the [Federal Register](#) (April 11, 2014) the final rule for **Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution**, 1910 and 1926 standards. Oregon OSHA will start its rulemaking process and will hold stakeholder meetings on May 14, 21, and 28 at 9:00 am in Oregon OSHA's Salem field office. The rule changes primarily affect firms and utilities that construct, operate, maintain, or repair electric power generation, transmission, or distribution installations.

There was a discussion about the May 19, federal OSHA public hearing to discuss the rule proposal to extend the compliance date for crane operation certification requirements. A couple of individuals asked that Oregon OSHA be proactive in the adoption of their own rule should federal OSHA continue to move the certification requirement out further than the 2017 date.

Continuing Business:

Claims Count and Compensable Fatalities Reports were passed out and discussed. The documents are attached to the minutes.

Toilets on construction sites were discussed. A prior Construction Depot article addressed the issue and it was presented along with a [fact sheet](#) for water temperatures with a copy of 1926.51 and 437-003-0020. It was clarified that Oregon OSHA Table D-1 is to be used to determine the minimum toilet requirements and not the toilet supplier's guidance.

The note at the bottom of 437-003-0020 was discussed and the intent was further clarified. Highway construction and maintenance projects or water, sewer, or gas **transmission** facility

construction projects exemptions are intended for mobile worksites (such as on a highway). It is not applicable in a fixed worksite where a facility is being built that happens to be among the industries listed above. For instance, the exemption would not apply to a power generation facility being built on a fixed worksite. The exemption would apply when workers are installing new power transmission lines along a highway where the actual worksite is constantly moving. Other related issues were also discussed related to sanitation/toilets.

Kevin Jensen of Ironworkers Local 29 followed up the conversation from the prior month related to the request to consider rulemaking for Subsection Q. Jeff Wilson gave Kevin a document that identified areas in other subdivisions of the rules that may apply and protect workers adequately. Kevin will review the documents and provide specific situations and or conditions that show how the current rules do not adequately protect workers.

Monthly Overnight Hospitalizations and Fatalities Report

Accidents

1. Medford

An electrician was running a new wire above a garage in an existing home. The employee fell between the truss bottom cords that he was using to stand on when his foot slipped. He fell through the sheetrock and to the concrete floor of the garage below resulting in head injuries.

2. West Linn

An employee climbed into an abandoned house and fell through the floor. The worker fractured his femur.

3. McMinnville

An employee was setting utility poles using an older Digger/derrick that had two booms. The operator had a pole held by the first boom and he was attempting to enter the basket attached to the second boom. As he was getting in the basket moved causing the worker to fall a total of about 13 feet. The worker suffered from a compression fracture in a lower vertebrae.

Fatalities

1. April 17, 2014 Medford

Homicide - Employee was shot by another employee.

2. April 9, 2014 Forest Grove

Two landscape employees were removing a mower from a trailer. A vehicle coming down the street swerved to miss the trailer and hit the two employees. One was killed and the other was injured. The worker was taken to the hospital.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2014 at 9:00am, AGC Office, Wilsonville