

Oregon OSHA
Construction Advisory Committee
Tuesday September 2, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Bruce Roller
Chris Ottoson
Cindy Regier
Clark Vermillion
Cody Adams
David Davidson
Demetra Star
Doug Rodgers

Gary Beck
Jeff Wilson
Julian Quinonez
Kathleen Fenton
Kevin Wheatcroft
Marilyn Schuster
Mark Hillyard

Mark Tobiasson
Melissa Diede
Michael Wood
Nathan Taylor
Pat Brunsen
Peggy Munsell
Roger Dale-Moore

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

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed by the group.

Lessons Learned:

There was a discussion at the previous meeting regarding if anyone in Oregon had come in contact with utilities that had not been properly marked. Recently, there was an incident where a locating company showed the utilities 30 feet from where they were located and 10 feet underground. When the contractor was evaluating the worksite the markings didn't make sense but began work anyway. In hindsight, they should have double checked with the utilities company before they began digging. Also, it would be good practice to use a digging bar.

Two employees were called to service an old building. There was a medium voltage switch that was not marked. Even though they didn't know what it was, they plugged a 600 watt plug into it causing an arc flash. One employee suffered 3rd degree burns, and the other, 1st degree burns. Neither of the employees was wearing protective gear.

Employees were confirming where an older 12 inch fire protection water line was and had the water line exposed. While it was exposed, the thrust block moved and the pipe separated. Normally, something like this wouldn't happen, but using a bell restraint would prevent it from happening at all.

Rules:

Changes to Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution rules are wrapping up. Oregon OSHA has worked closely with industry representatives and will propose amendments to the current rules in October 2014. Oregon OSHA is finalizing the details for the helicopter portion of the electrical power generation standards.

The comment period for confined is closed. Oregon OSHA is currently reviewing the comments.

Welding rulemaking is wrapping up.

Fire fighter rule is almost finished. Oregon OSHA will propose this rulemaking in Fall 2014.

A 3 year extension was filed for crane operator certification. Federal OSHA still hasn't finished their rule.

There has been a delay for enhanced injury reporting. OSHA has asked for additional comments.

Continuing Business:

No continuing business.

Monthly Overnight Hospitalizations and Fatalities Report

Accidents

1. August 13th (Salem)

An employee was running to talk to a lead carpenter who was leaving the jobsite, and struck his head on the bottom of a stair support.

2. August 18th (Corvallis)

A contractor was unloading a paving machine from a lowboy trailer. He raised the paver up while the binder chains were still attached. The chains were creaking. The driver went to release the chains when one of them broke. The cheater bar was being used on the binder. It flew off and struck a flagger nearby.

3. August (Venita)

An owner of several properties had a renter who did repair/remodels for the property owner in lieu of rent. In this case the property owner gave the worker extra money to hire other workers as well to assist in the project. The project consisted of jacking up an old house that had a lot of rot, and putting a new foundation under it. An addition to the old building broke loose while a worker was under it. It pinned the worker, who was unable to call out for help due to the weight of the building that had broken his back and punctured his lung. Since no one was aware of the situation the worker began digging himself out from under the building until he had enough room to move and call for help. Once the co workers helped get the injured worker out, they put him into the car and sent him to the hospital.

Fatalities

1. August 22nd

A janitorial worker was driving to a work location when he was hit head on by a drunk driver. The employee died on the scene.

Round table:

Construction Safety Summit's next training is scheduled for Sept. 23, 2014, with the topic being Silica.

Oregon OSHA will look into putting together a hazard alert on dump trucks.

Question was raised if anyone had used halo lights. No one had any experience with them.

Oregon OSHA reached out to the association for cell towers letting them know they would like to partner up with them. The association was suppose to get back to Oregon OSHA but they haven't yet. There is a lot of energy at the Federal level regarding cell towers.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is promoting the importance of hearing protection on the construction site and the use of sound-muffled construction tools. The campaign is called "Buy Quiet" and it includes an interesting 5-1/2 minute [YouTube video](#). Or, this link goes directly to the clip on [YouTube](#).

A question was raised if an employee is using an extension cord with the wire showing, and the employee has been trained, retrained, and reminded not to use extension cords with exposed wire, is the company liable if someone gets shocked or hurt? Yes, the company is still liable. Some ideas to prevent this from happening in the future are to document all training, write the employee up if they use exposed extension cords, get the employees to work as a team, investigate how the extension cords are getting damaged, keep things on the positive side by reminding the employee what's most important to them, like their families.

A concern was raised with ODOT working on the south end of the Boone bridge, at the northbound entrance and not properly alerting drivers of construction ahead. There was a warning sign on the on ramp but on the road they only had candle sticks and it was on a curve. Oregon OSHA will pass on the concern to ODOT.

There was a recall on welding torch handles by Harris. Oregon OSHA will put an article regarding this in the Construction Depot.

Kudos to Steve Barrett, a consultant for Oregon OSHA, for going above and beyond answering a question on skull caps.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2014 at 9:00am, AGC Office, Wilsonville