

**Oregon OSHA**  
**Construction Advisory Committee**  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017

**Meeting Minutes**

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**Attendees:**

Aaron Corvin	David Davidson	Melissa Diede
Alta Schafer	Emily Crews	Michelle Brunetto
Barb Epstien	Jeff Wilson	Renee Stapleton
Bryan Davis	Julie Love	Robert Miller
Bryan Ortiz	Kevin Wheatcroft	Rod Brunetto
Candice Teague	Mark Tobiasson	Scott Peabody
Clark Vermillion	Mary Lou Wilson	Tom Deines
Clint Elliott	Matt Enos	

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The meeting was called to order by Mark Tobiasson  
Self-introductions were made.  
Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

**Lessons Learned:**

When doing yard work, you should be extra diligent while mowing your yard, or trimming trees.

-Don't wear flip flops while mowing your yard. A neighbor was doing just that and he was mowing down a hill and started to slip and he pulled the mower back over his feet, cutting some of his toes off.

-There is a product called ladders little helper, it clips over the gutter to help the ladder not slide.

There was a case in Washington where the ladder being used was not inspected. The ladder broke in half; the guy working on it 9 feet up fell and died.

When you work in tight areas for any number of time, make sure you stretch and do some physical therapy exercises to help prevent injuries.

A company was doing man hole rehabilitation work. The employee was wearing a fall arrest system as a secondary measure of safety, and it had been inspected prior to using. They were bringing the employee back up out of the man hole when the cable snapped. The employee caught himself at the top with his hands. There was no visible damage to the cable. After the incident they found the inside of the cable had rusted (over the years).

-Did you know you have to oil the cables twice a year?

The group discussed best practices for inspecting the cables.

-There is a special harness that is made for allowing the employee to work in a manhole or other suspended work. It comes up over your head to allow you to stay upright rather than hanging forward.

Oregon has a higher rate of melanoma than the other states. The clouds don't filter the harmful UV rays, so always wear sunscreen, or stay covered.

What are companies doing to raise awareness of injuries and incidents?

-Communicating with all members: supervisors, foreman, employees, etc. always be talking about it. Start or finish each conversation with a safety talk.

-Don't just say "be careful" make sure everyone is using the proper equipment for the job and that it is in good working order. Don't be in such a hurry that you shrug it off.

-Look at your co-workers as family. Everyone should be helping each other be safe.

## **Continuing Business:**

Status of Rule Making:

### **Walking Working Surfaces:**

OR-OSHA held meetings and they are hoping to file the rule February 15. [There will be public hearings on March 29, April 3, April 12, and April 13.](#)

[Beryllium rulemaking](#) from Federal OSHA. The docket for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Occupational Exposure to Beryllium and Beryllium Compounds has been reopened to allow for submission of post-hearing comments and briefs.

### **Record Keeping-**

Federal OSHA adopted rules to improve tracking of work-place injuries and illnesses for employers. It requires employers in certain industries to electronically submit to federal OSHA injury and illness data that employers are already required to keep under existing federal OSHA regulations. The portal is still not active, and there is no information available.

### **Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)-**

Oregon OSHA will be tackling the challenge of the outdated permissible exposure limits (PELs), possibly 5-7 PELs. A preliminary stakeholder group was put together of people from inside and outside the agency. They met and discussed which PEL's should be focused on. The top 6 were: Noise, Manganese, Formaldehyde, Wood Dust- non allergenic, Lead, and Sulfur Dioxide.

Oregon OSHA will use the advisory group's suggestions as a starting point for potentially amending a narrow list of existing PELs

### **Employer Knowledge-**

Oregon OSHA plans to complete rulemaking that addresses the issue of employer knowledge and the role of reasonable diligence in determining whether an employer has "constructive knowledge" of a violation in the worksite.

The smaller sub-group will meet to discuss rule language on March 30, 2017.

## **Legislative Update:**

**Senate Bill 92:** Oregon OSHA updating the maximum penalty amount to match federal OSHA's maximum penalty amount. It has a hearing and workforce on Monday, February 20, 2107. It is written that if federal penalties are reverted back from the increase, ours will revert as well. - Has been heard and will have a work session on 3/27/17.

**Senate Bill 94:** Oregon OSHA also asked to increase the Commercial construction need flush toilets and wash basin jobs that exceed \$1.75 million dollars to be set in rule. The current amount is \$1 million. They also added verbiage that gives the director authority to increase the amount. - Has been heard and a work session has been held.

**Senate Bill 93:** The Worker Memorial Scholarship fund to increase to \$1 million so there is more money to use on the scholarships. It will be heard on Monday, February 20, 2017. - Has been heard and will have a work session on 3/27/17.

## **Monthly Accidents and Fatalities Report:**

### **Accidents**

1. February 8<sup>th</sup>, PDX

One employee was struck by a light pole (approximately 15 feet in length) in the head while working in the Port of Portland. The employee was hospitalized. The employee was wearing a hard hat.

2. February 21<sup>st</sup>, Hillsboro

An employee fell from a height in a residential construction activity. The injured employee was hospitalized overnight for observation. No inspection was conducted. Limited information was available.

3. February 24<sup>th</sup> PDX

An employee fell while working on roof joists. The employee stepped onto a box header that was unsecured and fell 9 feet to the floor. He was taken to Emanuel Hospital, and kept overnight.

4. February 8<sup>th</sup> PDX

Employee was working on the quick deck 37 feet above the Safe Span when he fell through the ladder opening; the employee landed on a co-worker who was working at the base of the access ladder. Both workers were transported to OHSU for treatment.

5. February 6<sup>th</sup> PDX

An employee was working on scaffolding when a beam fell off a post and hit a 2x6 plank which then hit his right hand causing the nail gun he was holding to hit him in the head. He fell backwards off the scaffold and landed on the ground feet first and then collapsed on the ground.

6. February 12<sup>th</sup> Scio  
5' aluminum step ladder, one employee fell and hit their head on the floor.
7. February 1<sup>st</sup> Woodburn  
Employee was cutting bolts off of a tiller with an oxy-acetylene torch and caught his pants on fire, receiving burns to his lower leg.

## **Fatalities**

1. February 27<sup>th</sup> Tigard  
An employee who worked out of the home was found slumped over her laptop by her husband. She was transported to the hospital where she passed away. 51 year old female.
2. February 18<sup>th</sup> The Dalles  
Employee was found lying on his back in the middle of the laydown yard. EMS responded. Employee passed away while being transported to the hospital. 58 year old male.
3. February 17<sup>th</sup> Noti  
A cutter was swept down by the tree he was cutting and struck against another log below him.
4. February Oakland  
Employee was standing a distance away watching the company owner unload excavator from the truck. The owner looked over and saw the deceased start running toward the truck when he collapsed, falling forward. Owner called 911, when EMS arrived onsite they administered CPR, employee was pronounced dead at the site. 62 year old male
5. February 23<sup>rd</sup> Junction City  
An employee was doing his pre-trip check on his truck when he bumped his head. This caused a group of vessels to break in his brain. He was taken to the hospital and underwent surgery. He is on life support and not expected to live. The employee was taken off life support at 12:00 pm February 23 and passed away at 4:30 pm that day.
6. February 6<sup>th</sup> Grants Pass  
A 74 year old male died of a heart attack.

## **Cranes/Derricks certification from the Feds:**

The feds had a date of November 2017 for the phase in provision for the certifications. Oregon OSHA has had no update to this, and the feds are not sure what will happen either. They will have an update for the group at a later date.

## **OSHA Inspections:**

Jeff Wilson from Oregon OSHA gave an overview of OSHA Inspections. Clark shared the training information from the last Construction Safety Summit meeting: [What to expect from an OSHA Inspection](#).

## **Round table:**

Renee thanked the group for their openness, honesty, and willingness to share their experiences to this group. It is greatly appreciated.

[AGC Safety and Health](#) is reaching out to people who would like to meet for networking and information sharing. Please see the hyper-link for information.

The Construction Safety Summit will meet March 28, 2017 at John's Incredible Pizza. Mark Harris, CIH will be presenting the new silica standard and 3M will have respiratory protection demonstration.

The Safety Stand Down is in May.

There were technical difficulties last year and they lost the data. To ensure that Oregon companies and organizations receive recognition for National Safety Stand-Down activities, send an email to: [falls@cpwr.com](mailto:falls@cpwr.com)

- List how many activities were held during the week
- How many attended each activity

## **Next Meeting:**

April 4, 2017

OR-OSHA Portland Office

Durham Plaza

16760 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd, STE 200

Tigard, OR 97224