

Oregon OSHA
Construction Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Al Lee	Emily Crews	Megan McDonald
Andy Haymart	Eric Bongen	Michael Wood
Barb Epstien	Eric Fullen	Milton Stamp
Barbara Hanley	George Goodman	Nathan Taylor
Barry Moreland	Guy Silvey	Nevin Mclain
Bill Haskins	Hailey Latherow	Nick Naramore
Bob Sherrod	Holt Andron	Paul Magrone
Braxton Chambers	Jacob Errico	Renee Stapleton
Brittney Pewonka	Jared Ottinger	Rhett Beecher
Bryan Ortiz	Jeremy Lawson	Robert Miller
Caleb Harris	Jim Anderson	Roberto Aguilar
Chris Grover	Jim Mahar	Robirda Lee
Chris Lynch	Joaquin Diaz	Roy Kroker
Connie Graybeal	John Mastromonaco	Roy Shwago
Craig Hanson	Julie Love	Sean Tinker
Dale Lindstrom	Kate Ryan	Stephen Heaven
Darren Toy	Kathy Miller	Steve Huson
Dave McLaughlin	Lane Ellison	Ted Zacher
Dede Montgomery	Lisa Pickert	Tony Howard
Dennis Bonin	Lynn Craig	Tosha Gilpin
Dennis Cox	Mark Spring	Troy Stoud
Doug Pettyjohn	Mark Tobiasson	
Eden Berstoff	Mary Lou Wilson	

The meeting was called to order by Mark Tobiasson.

Previous Meeting Minutes.

Sean Tinker asked for clarification/possible amendment on Lessons Learned: “Saw on the news there was an excavator related accident. Laborer was walking next to the equipment and the driver didn’t see him and ran him over. It was a fatality. -Communication is really important for everyone.”

The March meeting minutes were approved without amendment to above.

Lessons Learned:

Importance of pre-use inspection of equipment/tools. To test trigger, employee put gloved hand over the end. Tool caught the glove, and lesson learned was to inspect ahead of use and not put self in line of fire.

Monthly Accidents and Fatalities Report:

If there is an accident or fatality incident that you would like more information on let Nathan and Jeff know so we can track it and can discuss once the case is able to be discussed.

The following is preliminary information as reported at the time of the accident intake.

Accidents

1. March 19th, Redmond
Employee was removing plywood from a carport roof built between to storage containers on the northside of the employer's facility. The employee fell approximately 10 feet to a pavement surface below. As of 3/22/21, the employer had not confirmed the extent of the employee's injuries; suspected ankle and shoulder injuries.
2. March 15th, Bend
Employee was performing a wire pull through a junction box approximately 12 feet above the concrete floor. The employee was standing on the 5th rung of a 10 foot step ladder. As he was pulling, the head (the wire bent over the string eye and taped) opened up allowing the string to come free causing the employee to fall backwards off the ladder onto the concrete floor. The employer immediately called 911 Emergency Services; the employee was transported to St. Charles - Bend, with multiple serious injuries Fractured humerus; broken wrist; possible fractured pelvis; torn muscles and ligaments.
3. March 1st, Central Point
The employee was running a piece of wood through a wood router. His left-hand slipped and cut the tip of the middle finger.
4. March 23rd, Cannon Beach
Employee using tile saw to cut round tiles, brought tile back the wrong way and his finger jammed in the saw. Employee sustained a cut to tip of middle finger on right hand with tile saw. Received 5 stitches at ER.
5. March 3rd, Portland
Employee was working on roof of single story residence. Nearing the end of the job, the employee was not connected to a lifeline. Employee was placing t-metal at gable, the metal slipped, the employee reached to grab it, lost his balance, fell over the edge of the gable, and landed on concrete driveway approximately 11 feet below. resulting in a fractured right elbow.
6. March 12th, Otis
The employee received leg trauma /broken when it was run over by an excavator.

Mark Tobiasson: What stands out to me is fall protection issues and getting fingers caught in machines.

Michael Wood: all investigations are in pretty early stages. They are not unique or unusual ways to injure ourselves on jobsites. These are the same issues we have been worried about and been looking at for years.

Fatalities

1. March 22nd, Portland
Employee arrived to work on Monday, 3/22 and during protocol screening employee reported that he had a sore throat. Employee went home and did not work. Thursday, 3/25 company checked on employee, he stated that he was feeling better. Saturday 3/27 employee took a COVID-19 test, went to bed that night and

never woke up. 3/30/21 employer was notified that the employee's COVID-19 test came back positive. 52 year old male

2. March 26th Salem

The employee stayed to sleep overnight at the care facility that she worked at. She was found unresponsive by a co-worker the following day. 51 year old female

3. March 23rd, Grass Valley

Victim was alone in break room, passed out for unknown reason, possibly hit head on drawer when falling with enough force to break drawer before falling to floor. Victim was initially breathing had pulse but unresponsive. 911 called. Breathing changed, then no pulse detected. Compressions began. AED administered. Ambulance personnel pronounced victim deceased upon arrival. 43 year old male

4. March 23rd Silverton

The victim was refurbishing a seed elevator (grain elevator) above a dust collector when the explosion and subsequent fire occurred. 44 year old male

5. March 22nd , Aurora

Employee was a facility truck driver. Employee reported for work at 5 am checked in with Dispatch and while getting truck loaded (employee went to restroom) about a half hour had past and the truck was ready. Went looking for the driver and he was found unresponsive in a bathroom stall. Emergency response was called.

6. March 15th Eugene

Employee was found unresponsive in the portable restroom. The police were called, arrived on the job site and determined the employee passed away from a possible heart attack. 68 year old male

7. March 2nd Springfield

Volunteer caretaker, who lived on property grounds, was murdered. Police investigation was being conducted when employees arrived for work the morning off and were sent home. 70 year old male

8. March 3rd, LaPine

Medical event: Driver who suffered a heart attack while driving from LaPine to Troutdale in a Utility-service truck with another passenger. The passenger was able to stop the vehicle after the driver went unconscious and get the truck off the road safely. The passenger(2nd employee in the service truck was not injured and the service truck was maneuvered safely off the road. 911 called by employee, who then began CPR on driver. heart attack. 57 year old male

9. March 2nd Redmond

Driver was located inside truck slumped over steering wheel. Driver had backed up to the dock. Another driver heard moans and grunting and then walked over to truck and found deceased slumped over steering wheel. 60 year old male

Keep an eye on your coworkers comes to my mind.

Nathan T: question at Enterprise there were two employees run over by a backhoe. Why is this not on the list? Renee S: hunch is because it has not been entered into the system. It is possible that we were on site as soon as we could, though it was a distance away from a field office. Jeff Wilson: looks as though it is not in the system

yet. Another runover by a CAT this month. Michael W: perhaps miscoded because we have been on site and the investigation is in progress. Looks like it would be coded as a catastrophe as a double fatality. Jeff W did not run the report for Catastrophes. It looks like one person was getting out of excavator and something hit the controls as he was getting out. Looks like the rescuer was then hit by the excavator.

Continuing Business:
Status of Rule Making:

Dave McLaughlin: comment period closed Friday for permanent COVID rules. We are still processing comments.

We have had rules that we have adopted and then Federal OSHA came out with theirs and we adopted theirs in lieu. But that is not very common.

Renee Stapleton: We are starting the process with Heat and Smoke rules. We have had two meetings so far. There is additional information on our website for anyone interested. We are also pecking away at Employer Knowledge and Manganese.

Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Railroad Roadway Work:

It is about exemptions and exceptions in the crane rule. Oregon OSHA is proposing these rules in response to Federal OSHA rules filed in the Federal Register on September 15, 2020.

Infectious Disease Rule Making:

Proposed the permanent COVID-19 rule. We added to the temporary rule and clarified language. There is no expiration date, but can be repealed if needed. We are looking to have this effective before the temporary rule expires in May. We will address other Infectious Diseases at a later date.

Q: There was a discussion in the RAC on why the effort on future Infectious Disease was paused at this moment.

-The group voted to focus on the COVID rule for now. The employers were still working on training from the temporary rule and this would let them continue focusing on this.

On March 10, 2020, Governor Brown issued [Executive Order 20-04 \(EO 20-04\)](#) that provides directives to certain state agencies in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and mitigate the impacts of climate change. EO 20-04 includes a directive to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon OSHA to jointly develop a proposal for standards to protect employees from workplace exposures to excessive heat and wildfire smoke. In response to EO 20-04, Oregon OSHA, in collaboration with the OHA, advisory committees, and stakeholders, will work towards developing two separate proposed standards:

Protection from Unhealthy Levels of Wildfire Smoke

Smoke from wildfires is composed of harmful gases and fine particles that can present a significant health hazard to workers exposed to it. These health hazards can continue after fires have been extinguished and cleanup activities begin. The potentially detrimental health effects from exposure to unhealthy levels of wildfire smoke can affect anyone, but workers with asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or heart disease are at higher risk of serious or fatal health effects when their condition is exacerbated from exposure to wildfire smoke.

It is possible that this be in place as an emergency rule while we work on the permanent. We won't have the permanent in place by the next season.

California has a rule, and Washington is working on them. We can look at as part of the advisory committee to see what will work here in Oregon. We won't adopt a rule that says you can't work outside. There may be AQI info that would be helpful.

Preventing Outdoor Heat-related Illness

Outdoor workers who are exposed to sudden or excessive heat are at risk of developing heat-related illness. Heat-related illnesses include, heat rash and cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. As temperature and humidity increase, so does the level of risk to workers of developing potentially a life-threatening condition, especially when the body is generating its own heat when performing physical work. This situation is particularly serious when hot weather arrives suddenly or early in the season, before workers have had time to adjust to warm weather.

Please Contact Tom B if you are interested on being on the stakeholder committee.

Proposed Permanent COVID-19 rule:

The statutes don't allow us to extend the temporary rule, we can only replace with a permanent rule. Dave McLaughlin: comment period closed Friday for permanent COVID rules.

Proposed COVID-19 Labor Housing rulemaking:

to protect vulnerable workers in employer-provided labor housing from the unique health risks created by the current COVID-19 public health Note: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this publication is available in alternative formats by calling 503-378-3272.

emergency, especially those who spend both their working and their off-work hours at the employer's location. Public comment open until April 16 for ALH with COVID rules.

Synopsis:

Chris Lynch (Oregon OSHA compliance officer) shared a synopsis involving a steel structure collapse

Two employees working at the roof level of a multi-story commercial steel erection construction site fell approximately 30 feet when a portion of the structure collapsed, resulting in multiple injuries.

There was a failure in connection of beam and shear tab connection point. One employee fell to concrete and one employee fell to a steel beam.

- Numbers are approximate: fall of 30 feet; cantilever beams were 7 feet long; 24 different beams involved in the failure; area of 60 x 60 feet.
- There was no welding, erection crew thought the bolts were adequate to support the load, but they did request that connections be welded. Areas of spot welding did not fail.
- Sent a random selection of bolts to Fed OSHA but found no material failure.
- No violations were assessed to the General or Sub contractor.

Q: Were the workers tied off?

A. Yes, but they were tied off to the structure that collapsed.

Q. When was the welding supposed to occur?

A. Needed to be completed by the time the project was done. But was not a specific time stated.

Q. Was that temp shoring plan part of the original plan?

A: all shoring posts were in response to the accident.

Anonymous Questions:

If you have anything you would like to bring up at the meetings and would like to stay anonymous, let Mark Tobiasson or Nathan Taylor know and they will bring it up for you.

Round table:

Dennis Bonin: Next meeting of Construction Safety Summit is April 27 and will be a panel discussion.

Dede Montgomery: Speaking of heat and smoke, our Institute and OHWC spring symposium agenda and registration are now posted: <https://www.ohsu.edu/oregon-institute-occupational-health-sciences/adapting-climate-change-worker-safety-health-and-well> It is on May 21, 2021 and virtual.

Thank you for filling out survey for Oregon COVID-19 Construction Task Force. Results: <https://blogs.ohsu.edu/occupational-health-sciences/2021/03/23/effectiveness-of-resource-sharing-oregon-covid-19-construction-task-force-survey-results/>

If you have any topics that you would like Oregon OSHA to talk about to the group, please let [Alta Schafer](#) or [Mark Tobiasson](#) know.

Next Meeting:

May 4, 2021
Zoom Meeting