

**Oregon OSHA**  
Construction Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021

**Meeting Minutes**

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**Attendees:**

Al Lee	Eden Berstoff	Michael Wood
Alta Schafer	Emily Crews	Mike Brunenkant
Andy Haymart	Eric Fullan	Mike Jacobs
Angelica Valdivieso	George Goodman	Milton Stamp
Annamarie Earl	Hailey Latherow	Nathan Taylor
Barb Epstien	Holt Andron	Nick Naramore
Barbara Hanley	Ilene Ferrell	Paul Magrone
Barry Moreland	Jacob Errico	Rick McMurry
Bill Haskins	Jeff Hooper	Rob Nichols
Brad Nanke	Jeff Wilson	Robert Miller
Braxton Chambers	Jeremy Lawson	Roberto Aguilar
Brittney Pewonka	Jim Anderson	Robirda Lee
Bryon Snapp	Jim Mahar	Roy Shwago
Caleb Harris	Joaquin Diaz	Samuel Blake
Chris Grover	Julie Love	Soren Bjerregaard
Chris Lynch	Justin Wall	Stephen Heaven
Chris Williams	Kirsten Adams	Steve Huson
Clark Vermillion	Laird Blanchard	Ted Zacher
Dale Lindstrom	Lisa Pickert	Tony Howard
Darren Toy	Lynn Craig	Tosha Gilpin
Dave McLaughlin	Mark Spring	Troy Stoud
Dede Montgomery	Mark Tobiasson	Tyler Robinson
Dennis Bonin	Matt Kaiser	
Dennis Cox	Megan McDonald	

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The meeting was called to order by Mark Tobiasson.

**Previous Meeting Minutes.**

The May meeting minutes were approved.

**Lessons Learned & Safety Suggestions:**

There was a person in for a training class, and he asked if the fall protection was required on every job site, even in the swing stage. Yes, you need fall protection in the swing stage. Northwest Scaffold Service, Inc is offering a free scaffold fundamentals course to company safety people. Date of class June 11, 2021, Time of class 8:00am. Location NWSS office. Register with Clark Vermillion. [clark@northwestscaffold.com](mailto:clark@northwestscaffold.com)  
Clark let the group know he is retiring at the end of June.

There was an employee getting into a manhole and scraped his elbow, and didn't treat it. It got infected and he had to take antibiotics. The lesson is to preform first aid once an injury happens, no matter how small.

## **Continuing Business:**

### **Status of Rule Making:**

[Wildfire Smoke](#) and [Excessive Heat Rulemaking](#): Stakeholder meetings being held.

[Cranes on railways](#): adopted June 2, 2021.

[Penalties](#): Will be working on: currently reviewing comments.

[Manganese](#): Working on this rule. Planning to adopt with delayed effective date.

[Ag Labor Housing](#) rulemaking meetings have started back up again.

[COVID Rule](#) and CDC Guidance:

OHA guidance is tied to the Oregon OSHA rule. The CDC Guidance doesn't change our rule. To see the current [OHA guidance visit their website](#).

Vaccination Verification: Does not require the employer to take a copy, or have written record that you have checked for verification.

## **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. May 19<sup>th</sup>, Halfway

An employee's clothing caught fire while using gasoline to prime a truck engine carburetor. The engine backfired, igniting the gasoline, causing the clothing to catch fire.

2. May 6<sup>th</sup>, Sisters

The injured employee was driving a load through Sisters, OR with the windows of her vehicle down. A bee flew in and stung her. The employee did not have any epi-pen/epinephrine injection available for use. The injured employee has a severe allergy to bees and went into anaphylaxis/shock. The injured employee was able to pull over and call 911. EMS arrived on scene and transported her to St. Charles Hospital. The injured employee was admitted, kept overnight, and released on 05/18/21 at approximately 3:00PM.

3. May 4<sup>th</sup>, North Bend

Employee working on a quick connect hydraulic system when the threads or fitting failed and a cap blew apart. Employee struck in the face resulting in a broken jaw. Employee transported by ambulance to hospital by ambulance. Employee had surgery 5/6/2021. Excavation Company

\*will discuss more at the next meeting, once more information is obtained\*

4. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Eugene

Two employees were disposing of used vinyl flooring at the landfill. One employee slipped on a small piece of vinyl flooring, slid underneath the guard cable, then fell 10 to 12 feet into the landfill pit. EMS responded to the accident. The employee was transported to the hospital where he was admitted and treated for a fractured spine.

5. May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Portland

A bus driver was working his shift when he was struck in the shoulder by a stray bullet, sustaining a broken clavicle from the bullet, and glass debris in his eye from the shattered windshield. It is reported that the driver was not the target of the shooting.

6. May 17<sup>th</sup>, Portland

The injured employee reported for work late that morning without notice (7:45AM - Shift was supposed to start at 7:00AM) which was taking place on the 4th floor of the building structure. Employees then went on a 10-minute break around 9:30AM. The injured employee was observed retrieving something from his vehicle and going into the port-a-john. He was observed leaving the port-a-john approximately 10 minutes later looking pale/peaked. When the rest of the employees returned to work, it was noticed that the injured employee was missing/had not come back to rejoin his co-workers. The injured employee was found on the 3rd floor, in unit 326, by another subcontractor employee), unresponsive and struggling to breathe. The subcontractor called 911 and administered CPR until EMS arrived on scene. EMS administered NARCAN and informed the employer of the alleged drug overdose. Injured employee was admitted to the hospital and kept overnight.

7. May 11<sup>th</sup>, Seaside

One person fell off of the roof of a commercial building. The person is an independent contractor. The person sustained injuries stemming from dislocation of the hips and shoulders, and broken arms and facial bones.

8. May 8<sup>th</sup>, Portland

Employee was dismantling an escalator at a demo / remodel project when a landing gave way and the employee fell 10-foot (ER states employee was tied off) EE suffered a broken leg and is hospitalized at Legacy Emanuel

9. May 6<sup>th</sup>, Portland

Employee was operating a joiner when the tip of his ring finger was cut off approximately halfway down the finger nail.

## Fatalities

1. May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Powell Butte

It was reported that the owner was pronounced deceased being struck in the neck by a piece of cut off wheel that broke off a pneumatic angle grinder. The victim was reported to be using a pneumatic angle grinder, fit with a cut off wheel designed for the max RPM of 8,000, to cut a piece of exhaust pipe. The cut off wheel allegedly broke off of the angle grinder and struck the victim in the center of the neck resulting in a laceration in the victim's trachea and both carotid arteries. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene of the incident by Crook County Fire and Rescue. 61-year-old male.

2. May 21<sup>st</sup>, Eugene

Employee was dumping construction debris from a tote into a truck using an all-terrain fork lift. It appears he had the lift in neutral and the parking brake was not set. He got off the lift and got between the truck and the lift. The ground was nearly flat (1% grade). The lift rolled forward, pinning the victim. Early indications are that the worker died of asphyxiation. 50-year-old male.

3. May 17<sup>th</sup>, Gresham

On Saturday (05/15/21) at approximately 01:27PM, the decedent hit their head on a file cabinet while retrieving a document. They stated that they had an approximate 1-inch gash in their forehead that slowly bled for roughly 2 hours. The decedent declined medical care (documented in an e-mail to their employer sent later that day (~4:44PM) and stated that they did not feel dizzy nor did they have any symptoms of a concussion. The decedent worked a Tuesday-Saturday shift, but stated they would keep in contact with their manager

to keep them updated about their situation. The Manager did not hear from the decedent on Monday and grew concerned. They went to the decedent's residence (~12:00PM on 5/17/21) and noticed they were lying unresponsive on the floor through the windows. The manager contacted the 911. 32-year-old female.

4. May 11<sup>th</sup>, Deer Island

Employee drove loader back to shop to get parts. Crew tried to call employee, when he did not answer his phone, crew went back to shop where they found the employee non-responsive. 3 crew members attempted CPR. Ambulance was called and the employee was pronounced deceased at site. 48-year-old male.

5. May 8<sup>th</sup> Portland

Employee was found passed out on ground. Potential heart attack. 33-year-old male.

6. May 6<sup>th</sup>, Hillsboro

Employee was found deceased in the men's locker room by a coworker at 5:30 PM. The employee was found in the shower area with no indication of any accidents in the immediate area. The employee was last seen at 1:30 PM returning from lunch and a coworker indicated it appeared as though the employee returned from a workout/run. It is assumed the employee returned to the shower area to shower post lunch activities and was not discovered until 5:30 PM. The employee was a technical marketing engineer. This position is a desk like job (non-physically demanding) and the employee was not assigned any work tasks that had him working with chemicals or any unusual tasks. The employer summoned 911 and the medical examiner was summoned to the location. Employer has not received a cause of death to date. Employer was not certain if this was a reportable case due to the appearance of natural causes. Employer does not have any known COVID cases at this time in the workplace. 62-year-old male.

7. May 4<sup>th</sup>, Corvallis

A Cook noted the victim had not come back from the restroom after approximately 20 minutes. She knocked on the ladies' room door and after getting no response asked for the key. Upon opening the door, the victim was found on the floor, and appeared to have fallen off the toilet. First Aid (CPR) was given, 9-1-1 was called and upon arrival declared the employee deceased. 59-year-old female.

8. May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Albany

The employee had tested positive for COVID-19 on May 18, 2021. He was admitted to the hospital on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and died on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. 57-year-old male.

**Case Synopsis:**

March 2018, Eastern Oregon. Fatality related to being struck by object. Performing a hydro static test. Citations were issued.

Barbara Hanley shared that Oregon Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (OR-FACE) at OHSU also completed an investigation on this fatality. Here is a link to OR-FACE report: <https://www.ohsu.edu/sites/default/files/2020-07/OR-FACE-REPORT%20DRAFT%20ID-6MAR2018%20V8.pdf>

**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.*

Picture shared of an employee standing on a “platform bench”. Are these considered a scaffold or a ladder, and are they allowed?

Bryon:

Term: platform bench. You need to look at the actual device (product) and determine what it is and does. Manufacturers have tried to fill niches, and they have built either scaffolds, or ladders. I tracked down that the device shared and it is made by Louisville Ladders, and listed as Aluminum Sawhorse Ladder. ANSI: A14 standard has ladders and stepstools. Stepstool that meets A14, are designed for the use of standing on the cap. But stepstools are limited by ANSI A14 to 32 inches in height.

The picture provided is not a ladder. After digging in it was discovered in very small print that the device satisfies the A10.8 ANSI standard. This is the scaffold standard and this device is a scaffold, not a ladder.

Know what equipment you are purchasing, train employees on it using the manufacturer’s manuals and decals, and know what the devices are intended for.

**Round table:**

The next Construction Safety Summit Meeting is on June 22nd at 12:00 (Zoom) and will cover Hazard Recognition.

Dede shared that there is a recording of a discussion with Renee Stapleton and me during our climate change symposium two weeks ago that doesn’t speak exactly about the rule details but the process and scope. All of the other recordings are available

<https://www.ohsu.edu/oregon-institute-occupational-health-sciences/adapting-climate-change-worker-safety-health-and-well>

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:**

July 6, 2021  
Zoom Meeting