

Oregon OSHA
Construction Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Al Lee-Lennar	Eric Fullan	Megan McDonald
Alta Schafer	Greig Lowell	Michael Gordon
Andrew Johnson	Hailey Latherow	Mike Jacobs
Angelica Valdivieso	Ilene Ferrell	Pam Ahr
Annmarie Earl	Jake Errico	Paula Jones
Barbra Anderson	Jamey Goodman	Penny Wolf-McCormick
Barry Moreland	Jared Ottinger	Phillip Wade
Brendan Riedel	Jason Dunton	Rachel Madjlesi
Bryan Ortiz	Jeff Cordill	Rick McMurry
Bryon Snapp	Jeff Wilson	Robert Miller
Caleb Harris	Jeremy Lawson	Roberto Aguilar
Chris Dahl	Joaquin Diaz	Roy Shawgo
Cindy Booker	Joe Forest	Russell Nicolai
Darby Ramos	Josh Schwabauer	Ryan Leffel
Darren Toy	Justin Scott	Samuel Blake
Dave McLaughlin	Kevin Kilroy	Sean Tinker
David Davidson	Laird Blanchard	Stephen Heaven
David Smiley	Lisa Wisler	Tammi Stevens
Dennis Bonin	Lynn Craig	Ted Bunch
Doug Pettyjohn	Mary Lou Wilson	Troy Stroud
Eden Berestoff	Matt Kaiser	

The meeting was called to order by Joaquin Diaz.

Thank you all for joining the hybrid meeting. Introductions of people in person were made.

Previous Meeting Minutes.

The February meeting minutes were approved.

Lessons Learned & Safety Suggestions:

Thank you to Wildish for inviting the Oregon OSHA staff to their site for mobile crane training in May. Skanska has invited Oregon OSHA staff for Tower crane training.

Russ: slips trips and falls. Skidoo mat, thermal flow, is a product we are trying, and so far we have not had any incidents. Multi-employer work site is all our responsibility for slips trips and falls. With the winter weather this has been helping us prevent issues.

SAIF Presentation:

you have any ideas on what you would like covered please let Nathan Taylor or Joaquin Diaz

Kevin Kilroy and Pam Ahr, Chief Safety Officer presented [Workplace Safety Measurements](#).

SAIF's vision is for Oregon to be the safest and healthiest state. The objective is to measure that. Bureau of Labor and Statistics: survey of occupational injuries and illness. 2 key measures: frequency and severity. We are going to be focusing on frequency today. 3.4 injuries per 100 FTE. There aren't a lot of ways for us to compare. We looked at the industries that are affected the most, and we looked at who we have a lot of reach with and influence on. Health care and construction are the biggest groups. The BLS data for 2021 came out November of 2022, so there is a year lag with the data. The numbers are going down which shows that there is improvement in safety in construction.

Doug: does BLS show the size of the construction companies or just show the data straight across.

Pam: we did look at that data. The larger companies have a low number and the smaller companies have the higher numbers.

Craig: smaller employers are exempt from the 300 logs so how does BLS get this info?

Pam: We pulled the smaller employers' data from our claims at SAIF, the data in the employer number graph is SAIF data.

Where could SAIF target its resources for the biggest impact?

What incidents could SAIF resources target for the biggest impact?

What other opportunities are there to use this data?

Pre-task planning: how do get this into more hands-on smaller construction site.

Near miss reporting is not on the radar and we should be tracking these as well.

Frontline supervisor support / development

Promote occupational health and well-being.

Strategic Engagements:

High school focus. Make a difference for kids before they start in the workforce.

Questions:

Jeff: have you found curriculum that is appropriate for school age kids?

Pam: there is some. And the OSHA 10 is good for them, and getting true basics to them will be important.

Doug: What will the trainer do to adapt the OSHA10 to the youth? It definitely needs to get out there.

Pam: 60% of claims happen in the first 6 months of the job. We are looking at those options for that first year.

Renee: [Olyes](#) is also working to get more youth information out there. They have an intern that is working on this now. SC has a great program that we are trying to get more information from them on what they are doing.

Joaquin: have you seen any rise in claims on suicide and PTSD?

Pam: we can't speak to the suicide claims, but there is rise in PTSD claims.

Russ: is the PTSD due to stress?

Pam: the words can be different depending on the industry

Joe: it is a great idea to reach out to the youth. Are you focusing on just construction, or other workforces?

Pam: there are lots of hazardous industries, and yes, we are focusing broadly on many industries. Long term goal is to get this into the curriculum for Junior age kids across Oregon.

Joe: smaller companies don't often do a pre-task plan because they don't know much. and thinks training for pre-task planning understanding to the smaller companies would be a great idea.

Michael: First step seems to be is to get teachers, shop teachers, and other educational professionals on the same page speaking the same safety language.

Joaquin: Energy wheel is a series of graphics to help plan. It has been used in other industries, and it is slowly being used in construction.

Thank you for taking the time to come and meet with this group.

Has any Oregon OSHA VPP been in the construction industry?

Renee: I don't believe so, it is a dynamic process.

Kevin added that there were a few sites that were VPP at one point.

Holt: we can have Mark Hurliman come and talk about the VPP/SHARP program at one of the meetings.

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. February 27th, Ontario

An employee was laying irrigation pipe in a 4.5 ft trench and preparing for installation of trench-box in sandy soil when the soil collapsed, pushing the employee against the embankment and breaking his elbow. He is being sent to the orthopedist and will be having surgery.

2. February 1st, Springfield

The employee was working on a metal slope sheeting 2x4 door in the basement. The door indicates overhead hazards in addition to signage regarding lockout/tagout. The employee opened the door and a 2x8 piece of lumber weighing approximately 50 pounds struck the employee in the head, rendering him unconscious. The employer immediately contacted emergency services. The employee was transported to Riverbend Hospital

3. February 20th, PDX

Temp employee was 40 minutes in to their first day at work. Right middle finger was amputated when the glove on their hand was sucked in to a machine. Surgery was performed same day and employee was released from emergency room.

4. February 17th, Beaverton

The employee was removing plywood from the roofing deck when a 4x8 foot section kicked back and hit his right thumb, causing it to bend back. The employee drove themselves to the hospital where they were admitted and x-rayed. They were released the same day with a sprain/possible ligament tear contingent on further observation.

5. February 16th, Canby

The employee was working at the foam fabrication area, cutting/trimming furniture foam at the film bandsaw, when they noticed a piece of foam out of place. The employee attempted to push it through the saw and caught their right ring finger on the saw blade, partially amputating the fingertip up to the first knuckle. 911 was called, EMS arrived, and the employee was taken to OHSU where they were treated (fingertip amputation), and released the same day. The employee is a recent hire and has been working at the site for about a week.

6. February 8th, Milwaukie

Employee cut their wrist at work between the hours of 1200 P.M. and 1300 P.M. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The employee took themselves to urgent care and received antibiotics the day of the injury. The employee went back to the emergency room on Thursday, February 9, 2023 and was admitted and spent the next three days in the hospital.

7. February 21st, Amity

Employee was transferring from a pitched roof to a flat roof. The employee had undone his fall protection and swung his leg over to the ladder located on the flat roof. When the employee foot hit the ladder, it slipped causing the employee to fall approximately 12 feet to a gravel surface below causing a broken left wrist and six broken ribs. The employee was transferred to the hospital and stayed overnight for observation.

Fatalities

1. February 27th, Beaverton
Presumed cardiac event, employee was found in janitorial/linen area, CPR and AED administered, unable to revive. 64-year-old male.
2. February 17th, Albany
On Saturday 2/18/23 at approximately 11:00 am, the deceased, a truck driver, spoke to his daughter and noted he was not feeling well. On Monday 2/20/23 the truck stop (Loves Truck Stop) noted no activity at the truck for several days, and contacted the trucking company. The trucking company requested that the truck stop break a window and do a wellness check. Upon getting into the truck, it was noted that the driver was deceased. 60-year-old male.
3. February 17th, Portland
Employee went to bathroom after arriving at work and never came out. Committed suicide by gun shot. 33-year-old male.

Legislative Update:

Oregon OSHA is tracking 123 bills that we are watching in the legislature right now, and we don't have an opinion on any of them.

We had a bill that we introduced, on confidentiality, but it will be going away and we won't be moving forward on it at this time. [Legislative Process](#)

Anonymous Questions:

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

Subject: Catch platforms on the worksite.

Bryon Snapp: When you look at the fall protection rules for either general industry or for construction, you will not find the term "catch platform" related to fall protection. A "catch platform" is not a recognized fall protection system such as guardrail systems, travel restraint systems, personal fall arrest systems or safety nets systems. Essentially, when an employer builds a "catch platform" they are attempting to creating a lower level that is generally less than the trigger height that would activate the need for a fall protection system, such as the 6-foot trigger for OAR 437-003-1501(1). If a "catch platform is built 5 feet below a lower level on a construction site, employees can still be seriously injured from that 5-foot fall. Oregon OSHA does not have minimum specifications for catch platforms because catch platforms are not recognized as a type of fall protection system. Furthermore, the concern is that often times these platforms are created using scaffolding. When they are created by utilizing scaffolding components, or from premanufactured scaffolds like scissor lifts or tube and coupler supported scaffolds, the strength and stability of those scaffolds needs to be closely evaluated by someone that is qualified...not just in scaffolding, but in the extra forces related to falling upon them. Scaffolds are designed to safely support a load that is positioned on the scaffold and are not designed handle the additional external vertical and horizontal forces that are applied when a person falls from above onto these structures that must be taken into account. Additionally, there are variables that must be considered such as how wide would a catch platform need to be to reasonably catch a person who may be sliding down a pitch surface; would they cause the platform to tip over; or slip out from under the guardrail on the platform? We can look to the width requirements for safety net systems for guidance; however, most employers will not want to build a catch platform as wide as is described for a safety net system. Finally, can a lower level be constructed to allow employees to work on an upper surface without any type of fall protection system in place? Yes; however, it is up to the employer to ensure that the lower level is sufficient to support the intended fall loads, is free from gaps or holes and does not present a hazard to those employees who will fall into it.

You can reach out to Oregon OSHA Technical section to discuss information regarding a variance.

Rules update:

OHA Covid-19 masking update. There is a stake holder meeting tomorrow to talk about next steps for Oregon OSHA.

Fed OSHA standards improvement process: grammar, punctuation, spelling error corrections. Proposing corrections in next couple weeks. It will be 27 rules that will be corrected.

Round table:

CSS: Steve Barret: Knife river all day event is CPR training, Steve Frost will be talking about suicide prevention. United rentals will be doing a trench safety training. Reach out to steve.barret@bbsi.com. Monday, March 20, 2023 in Albany. let us know TODAY if you are interested.

Renee: worker memorial. AFLCIO hosts. It will be in Salem, April 28, 2023 around the noon hour. Safety break Oregon is in May. Oregon OSHA's 50th Anniversary is on 7/22/2023.

National safety week is May 1 -5. <https://www.constructionsafetyweek.com/>

Meeting adjourned.

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

Next Meeting:

April 11, 2023
Oregon OSHA Portland Field Office / Zoom Meeting –