

Oregon OSHA
Construction Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Al Lee-Lennar	Greig Lowell	Maggie Gerlicher
Alta Schafer	Guy Sixberry	Mark Myers
Amanda Davies	Ilona Hyett	Mary Lou Wilson
Amber	Jake Errico	Mike Brunenkant
Annmarie Earl	Jamey Goodman	Nathan Taylor
Antonio Gonzales	James Burke	Oriana Davis
Barbra Anderson	Jason Dunton	Phillip Wade
Barry Moreland	Jeff Hooper	Rick McMurry
Bash Mumuni	Jeremy Lawson	Roy Shawgo
Brian Jensen	Jim Mahar	Shane
Bryan Davis	Joaquin Diaz	Stephanie Baird
Bryan Ortiz	Joe Forest	Stephen Cannon
Bryon Snapp	John Mastromonaco	Steve Barrett
Craig Tweedy	Josh Schwabauer	Steve Huson
Dale Lindstrom	Julie Love	Tammi Stevens
Dan Herb	Kyan Bartel	Tanner Lloyd
David Davidson	K. Beuscher	Travis Stone
David Smiley	Laird Blanchard	

The meeting was called to order by Dale Lindstrom.

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

Previous Meeting Minutes.

The November meeting minutes were approved.

Lessons Learned & Safety Suggestions:

One company has been learning a lot during the fires in California. They have been working near one of the fires and they are working on keeping everyone safe while trying to protect the project area safe from the fires.

Another company has been focusing on making sure all the subcontractors and employees have the training they need.

One company has seen that the LEANSAFE ® Ladders on some sites have had the bracket clips cut off because an employee thought it was for storage only and it was getting in the way. - Make sure the LEANSAFE ® ladders are being used properly.

Another company reported dealing with drivers driving through construction zones to fast, and there was an incident where a vehicle drove through and hit some materials. No employees were injured.

One company is investing in a triage and telephonic system. Onsite Health and Safety. They can do some onsite x-rays, as well as other services.

The group discussed the topic and that it can be in issue with arrival times in some areas due to staffing, or remoteness of the location.

One company has put into their contracts that the GC has to have onsite medical support at each job.

OSHA Spotlight:

[Bryon Snapp presented an accident at a wind tower.](#)

An employee was working inside the tower of a wind turbine. It was reported that an employee was hoisting a bag of tools and equipment up and down 60 feet, inside the tower. The bag of tools and equipment fell striking an employee resulting in unconsciousness, a concussion, and a broken rib. The employee was taken to the hospital where they were treated and kept overnight.

The group discussed the scenarios and options that could have been used.

Rule Updates:

Oregon OHSA adopted new rules for [Agriculture Labor Housing and Related Facilities](#).

Federal OSHA made updates to the [Hazard Communication rule](#); We had proposed the updates to be at least as effective as them, but half way through our process Federal OSHA sent out a new update. We have put the process on pause because they announced another update will be coming out soon. Once that update is released we will review and will continue with the process.

The [Permissible Exposure Limits for Lead](#) is currently meeting and being worked on. If you are interested in participating you can reach out to Linda Pressnell, linda.s.pressnell@dcbs.oregon.gov

Monthly Accidents and Fatalities Report:

If there is an accident or a fatal 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.

During January's CAC meeting, the accidents and fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA in December were not discussed as normal as Oregon OSHA was not prepared to share the report by the time the CAC started.

The following accidents and fatalities are added to the January minutes as a courtesy =

Accidents –

1. December 26th, Corvallis
A Supervisor observed an employee working inside the store not acting normally. When the Supervisor approached the employee the Supervisor noticed the employee could not focus and had two other employees help her to the breakroom while the Supervisor called 9-1-1. EMS arrived and it appears the employee was having a stroke. Employee was transported to the hospital and admitted.
2. December 26th, Eugene
Employee had just started their work shift and was walking over to their work station when they slipped and fell, resulting in a broken ankle.
3. December 18th, Eugene
Employee was working at Amazon park cleaning some graffiti. when employee stood up she was not feeling right and called supervisor. First call was to roving medical, supervisor determined to call 911. EMS transported employee to a hospital. Employer is unsure if chemicals were being used.
4. December 17th, Roseburg
The employee was at the branch talking with a manager, when the employee stated he was not feeling well and needed to sit down. The employee then started slurring his words, at this time 911 was called the fire department and EMS arrived. The employee was transported and admitted to the hospital. The employee is still at the hospital for observation.
5. December 17th, Albany
Victim was operating stand-up forklift, when backing up, the forklift struck a door frame, the victim was jostled; fell to the ground striking their head. Extent of injuries unknown.
6. December 16th, Redmond
The employee was cutting 0.060 titanium wire and did not control one end of the wire when it was cut. The wire sprung back and contacted his right eye. The employee was not wearing protective eye wear as required by company policy.
7. December 13th, Bend
An employee was dealing with a student that was dysregulated, causing the employee to have a severe panic attack/trauma event.
8. December 13th, Klamath Falls
The bus driver was on route when he felt ill and called a supervisor stating he was not feeling well. At this time the supervisor called 911 and the employee was transported to Sky Lakes Medical Center. It is unknow if the employee will be admitted.

9. December 13th, Roseburg

There was extension cords placed right outside the parking physicians area. It was still dark out when two employees arrived for work, as they were walking in one employee tripped over a cord and fell down. The employee was taken to CHI Mercy Medical Center, where she was admitted with a right hip fracture.

10. December 12th, Boardman

An employee climbed on the chassis/back of a container trailer to close the container doors on the back of the trailer. When the (3rd party) Semi Truck driver/operator took off/drove forward with the Finley Butte Landfill/Waste Connections employee still standing and attempting to close the doors on the back of the truck. As the truck made a turn the employee fell out of the truck landing on his head on a side.

11. December 12th Redmond

The employee was taking the materials out of the building when they slipped on the ice and fell breaking their right leg at the ankle.

12. December 5th, Days Creek

Employee slipped off the ladder descending from the cab of a log loader falling onto the tracks breaking his right wrist and left leg below the knee.

13. December 4th, Roseburg

Employees were in a meeting in the training room, when the employee walked away fast from talking to a coworker, tripped over a cord fell approximately 6 feet away and landed on her left side resulting in a fractured hip.

14. December 4th, Gilchrist

An employee was wiping down cafeteria tables and started have symptoms of heart attack. Stated to another custodian that he was not feel well. Other employees were able to observe visible symptoms that employee was ill. Head custodian told ill employee to go the onsite health clinic. The clinic was closed. The employee then drove himself to a La Pine health care facility. The health care facility had the employee transported by ambulance to the Bend St Charles Hospital and was he admitted to the hospital.

15. December 4th, Bend

Employee was working outside on the ground guiding shoring to be loaded on step deck when his fingers were caught between the shoring and the step deck resulting in broken fingers and possible amputations.

16. December 4th, Roseburg

At the landfill the supervisor found the employee lying on his back near the cab of the tractor trailer unconscious. The employee soon regained consciousness, but had did not have recollection of what had occurred. The current presumption is that the employee fell from the steps up the cab of a tractor, tractor trailer combo- no witnesses-conclusion drawn from available info. He is currently believed to have been admitted to the hospital. The employee was initially taken to Mercy Emergency Medical Center in Roseburg prior to being transferred to Sacred Heart Hospital in Springfield. The employer representative making the report heard third hand that a vertebrae was pushed into the spinal cord, currently in a neck brace.

17. December 23rd, Portland

The employee was performing an exam on a cat. Cat latched on and bit her on the hand and wrist, and she sustained bite wounds. She continued to work the rest of the day, and went to the hospital the following day (12/24/24) as her hand was not better. She was admitted into the hospital overnight and treated there.

18. December 18th, Forest Grove

Employee was standing on inside of doorway marked "Do not stand here" in both English/Spanish. When door swung open by someone, it hit the employee and she fell to the ground and was unable to put weight on her right side. She was taken to the hospital and admitted overnight, resulting in a broken hip.

19. December 16th, Troutdale

The employee was heading to his vehicle in the parking lot after he was done with his shift. He tripped and fell in the parking lot over a speed bump, and hit his head on the ground. Another employee responded and called 911, where he was transported to Mt Hood Medical Center and then to Legacy Emanuel where he was admitted for surgery to address a cervical fracture.

20. December 17th, Portland

The injured employee is a forklift operator of a sit-down forklift. He was driving through the warehouse, looking at racks and other things. He got too close to one of the support columns of racking, and the right side back rest of the forklift hit a support column. The employee hit his head on the forklift's overhead guard and received a laceration on top of his head, along with neck and back pain. The employee is about 7 feet tall, which is why he received a head injury. He did not have a bumpcap on, but was wearing his seatbelt. 911 was called and he was transported to the hospital where he was admitted for surgery due to vertebrae damage.

21. December 6th, Sherwood

An employee was driven to the hospital from work and was admitted overnight due to experiencing symptoms of high blood pressure/stress on 12/6/24.

22. December 4th, Corneilus

Injured employee was in an aerial work platform that was designed for a telehandler but used on a mast forklift. The AWP was sitting on top of the forks rather than in the fork pockets, not secured to the mast, no fall protection was used, and the safety gate was wired open. Injured employee was doing in-fill in concrete walls, went to the edge of the basket and the AWP tipped over and both the AWP and injured employee fell to the ground level from roughly four feet. The AWP basket fell on top of the employee, resulting in a lower back compression fracture and head and right leg contusions. Injured employee was originally kept overnight for observation due to medical history, surgery was deemed necessary and the employer informed of the necessity evening on 12/10. Surgery performed 12/11 afternoon.

23. December 12th, Portland

Injured employee was operating a formex, a machine that makes meat patties, and reached into the machine during operation. Two metal plates of the machine sheared the right index finger between the nail bed and first knuckle, resulting in partial amputation.

24. December 9th, Portland

The employee started to experience pain near her belly button during her shift on Friday, 12/6/24. She worked again on Sunday, 12/8/24 when the pain got worse while she was lifting bags of potatoes, weighing about 50lbs each. On 12/9/24 she reported the pain to her supervisor and HR manager. She finished her shift (works approximately 5AM to 1:30/2PM) and went to urgent care, where they then referred her to the hospital. She was admitted into the hospital overnight.

25. December 5th, Gresham

Employee was pulling wire through the attic and he tripped and fell through the ceiling, landing about 12 feet down on a concrete floor. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

26. December 2nd, Portland

The employee knocked at a customer's door and no one answered. He went back to the truck and got the tools he needed. As he was working on the meter, the customer came out and startled him. The customer apologized for it, but after that the employee was unable to recover from it. He felt weak and had pain. He went to the store and got milk, and was drinking water. He made a call to a few people, but couldn't remember much and the next thing he remembers, he woke up in the hospital. He stated that he felt that his heart was beating as if he was running a marathon. Diagnosed with a heart attack in the hospital.

27. December 4th, Beaverton

Crew arrived on site to deliver roofing materials, and roofing contractor had tarped front side of the roof. They removed the tarp upon crew's arrival and allowed crew to

access roof to load materials. Contractor noted that the back side of was icy, so the crew harnessed up and one worker on the crew went up the ladder. He accessed the roof with a bag of safety gear that had hammer, nails, and rope. He set the bag down and during the course of getting gear out of bag, he stepped on the back side of the roof, slipped, and fell down the back side of the roof to the ground below, roughly 16 feet. He was not tied off yet as he was accessing the rope when he fell, on roof for only about a minute and half. 911 was called and the worker was transported to the hospital.

28. December 17th, Portland

Employee works in environmental services; unclear if injury occurred while lifting a linen bag (~30 to 40lbs) and straining back, or mopping floor and slipping. Employee completed shift, went home; next day couldn't get out of bed; children called ambulance, and employee was admitted to hospital.

29. December 31st Salem

Officer was bitten by dog, bite became infected.

30. December 31st, Portland

An employee was using a 2 step ladder when she fell and injured her foot. The employee was transported to Providence St. Vincent where x-rays were performed and then transported to OSHU where pins were installed. The POC believes that the employee is still hospitalized.

31. December 27th, Lake Oswego

An employee was at a client site and slipped on a wet exterior staircase and fell down several steps, twisting an ankle and bruising around the ribcage. Employee was seen the following day for X-rays to check for fractures and sent home without any further treatment.

32. December 19th, Aurora

Employee was installing a trailer onto a pickup truck receiver. The employees finger was caught in between the trailer ball and trailer hitch. Causing partial amputation of the tip of the left pinky finger just below the finger nail.

33. December 18th, Gresham

The injured employee fell down and hit her head at her desk work area. She has a 3-way u-shaped desk set up with a plastic desk mat that was skewed out of its typical place when she was found. An employee happened to be walking by the office right after she fell, and found the employee unconscious with a pool of blood from her head on the floor. She called 911, counted off breaths with them and paramedics arrived/took the employee to the hospital.

34. December 13th, Banks

The employee was driving his work vehicle on his way to a meeting. At the stop sign at Pihl Rd he stopped, looked left, right, then left and right again. He was looking left and didn't see the oncoming vehicle when he pulled out and was hit on the drivers side door by an oncoming vehicle. Ford F350 was vehicle the employee was driving. The accident resulted in a concussion and spleen and kidney bruise.

35. December 12th, Portland

Two employees were working on different rough rounding (grinding) machines. The injured employee was the lead worker in the area. The other employee was having an issue with his machine. The lead worker stopped and came over to look at the machine. As he was pointing to the guard which is what he thought was the issue, he did not realize the blade was still running and the tip of his right middle finger was amputated. The employee whose machine it was had turned off the machine prior to the lead worker looking at it. They cleaned up the worker and took him to the front, where they called AMR and he was taken to the hospital.

36. December 11th, Portland

Employees had completed a chimney repair. There was approximately 3 frames of scaffolding onsite, and when they were done with the job they had removed the top level of scaffolding and they were continuing to break down the rest. The ground was uneven, so the employees had to make sure the feet of scaffolding were plumb so that it would set properly. They had made adjustments at the ground level- put down extra stuff for that. When they disconnected scaffolding from the house, it fell and hit one of the workers who fell as well from the scaffolding. Another employee was stuck on the roof when it was disconnected, as it pulled away and fell over. The employee who was hit by the scaffolding was injured and taken to the hospital as the cross bars fell/hit him in the face and his body. The injured employee suffered from a broken ankle, rib, and jaw.

Fatalities –

1. December 26th, Beaverton

Employer reported they found an employee deceased in restroom. They stated employee was experiencing heartburn and had been in the ER the previous day. Employee suffered from a presumed heart attack. 911 was called, but they were unable to resuscitate.

Anonymous Questions:

If you have anything you would like to bring up at the meetings and would like to stay anonymous, let Rick McMurry, or Dale Lindstrom know, and they will bring it up for you.

Question: What is Oregon OSHA's stance on the use of slide guards in construction/roofing as a secondary means of fall protection and maybe offer some guidance/best practices on when they would best be used?

Answer:

Bryon shared the following information: In Oregon slide guards used to be an acceptable means of fall protection that was previously recognized in rule.

In November of 2015, Oregon OSHA proposed to revise the general fall protection requirements covered under Division 3 (Construction Industry), Subdivisions 3/M (Fall Protection), as requested by federal OSHA. The proposed revisions to Subdivision 3/M, included revoking the use of slide guards as a sole or primary fall protection system. Those proposed rule changes were adopted on March 1, 2016 and became effective on October 1, 2017. Today, slide guards are a recognized type of fall protection.

Slide guards are a good to use for lowering the probability that an employee may fall to a lower level; however, a citation will still be alleged when an employee is working 6-feet or greater above a lower level and they are only protected from falling by the use of a slide guard system.

Here is the link to the adopted changes to the Slide Guard rules = <https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/adopted/2016/ao2-2016-ltr-div3.pdf>

Division 3- [Subdivision M](#)

1926.502(b) Guard Rail System (pdf page 17)

(c) Safety Net System (pdf page 19)

(d) Personal Fall Arrest System (pdf page 21)

437-003-0502 Personal Fall Restraint Systems (pdf page 24)

(e) Positioning Device Systems (pdf page 25)

437-003-1502 Warning Line Systems for Roofing Work (pdf page 26)

(f) Warning Line System

437-003-2502 Safety Monitoring System (pdf page 28)

(g) Repealed

(h) Repealed

(i) Covers

Question: *It would be great if I could reference a clear and simple explanation for them.*

“If a stair tower is not attached to scaffolding and is used to access the roof or different levels of a building would the person climbing the tower be a “user” and need to be trained in scaffolding use?”

Subpart L vs Subpart X

Answer:

Bryon shared the following information: When a stair tower is constructed with scaffolding components and is used to gain access to a structure other than a scaffold, such as a

building, that stair tower is covered under Oregon OSHA's scaffold rules in Division 3, Subdivision L. Oregon OSHA included that direction in Oregon OSHA's [Program Directive A-218](#) Scaffolds in Construction back in 2020. See page 1 and 2 of the Program Directive.

If you are using scaffold components then the rule applies.

It was asked: It makes sense to have the stair tower built and maintained under the scaffolding use. However, every person ascending and descending the tower would need all the same training as scaffold users?

Answer, when employees use a stair tower constructed of scaffolding components, the employer does need to ensure that they receive the parts of the training that is outlined in 1926.454(a) that is "applicable" such as if there is a trash chute attached to the stair tower, the employer would need to cover the nature of the fall hazards and the correct procedures for dealing with fall protection near the trash chute. Another example was to not over load the stair tower by driving a mechanized track machine loaded with bricks up the stairs.

Another question was asked: we have a number of people who come onto our sites i.e. inspectors, Compliance Officers, etc. Does Oregon OSHA train their staff on this?

Bryon answered that our Compliance Officers do go through scaffold training, but not each job specific training. You will need to do that for your site. We have had our Compliance Officers be asked to take a 5 – 10 minute training at job sites for these types of things.

Round table:

Julie Love shared that the 2025 Legislative session is starting and they are expecting about 6000 bills to be submitted. So Oregon OSHA will be watching what comes out that will affect us.

We have put forward a bill on confidentiality.

We also have a policy option package for our budget that has been submitted and we are asking for positions to help bring in more staff.

Safebuild Alliance – will have a meeting on -A Conversation About Construction Management Practices on Tuesday, February 4th at McMenamins Kennedy School.

Please register at www.safebuildalliance.com

Greig- [GOSH conference](#) is in March – registration is open.

There are still spots left for the [forklift challenge](#) at the GOSH conference. Deadline is 2/14/2025

Craig Hamelund offered the opportunity for companies to share their thoughts and examples of pre-task plans to be included in Oregon OSHA's "Playbook" found here: <https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/misc/engaged-energized-and-effective-safety-committees.pdf>

Craig will change the title of this online guidance (currently focused on safety committees) but the idea is to offer real-world, practical suggestions and examples of innovative and effective safety meetings, inspections, and pre-task plans!

If interested, please email Craig what you'd like to include. Craig would also love to list your company to give proper credit where credit is due.

craig.hamelund@dcbs.oregon.gov

Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit in Bend January 27-28, 2025.

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

Next Meeting:

February 11, 2025

Zoom / Oregon OSHA 16760 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd Tigard, OR 97224