

**Oregon OSHA  
Forest Activities Advisory Committee  
June 8, 2017  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Tom Bozicevic	Ben Hainley	Bruce Skurdahl
Heather Case	Dan Henderson	Mark Standley
David Cluiton	Rod Huffman	Rollie Thompson
Mike Coiner	Larry Kirkpatrick	Trena VanDeHey
Mark Dvorscak	J Mitchell	Teri Watson
Stephanie Ficek	Wayne Oja	Brent Way
Brendon Fisher	Craig Olson	Vince Wilbur
Jim Gahlsdorf	Rocky Shampang	Jeff Wimer
John Garland	James Siegfried	
Jim Geisinger	Andrew Siegmond	

**Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**The group introduced themselves.**

**The group approved the March 9, 2017 meeting minutes.**

**Continuing business:**

**Securing loads with machines when removing wrappers**

Representatives from Seneca Sawmill Company shared their practices for securing log loads when drivers are removing wrappers for unloading, while Tom showed videos clips he had taken at Seneca. The representatives support using log handling machines to fully encompass loads when removing wrappers. However, on rare occasions, when the condition of a load is not conducive to using the encompassed method, they use the “bump method” or remove the load with the wrappers and break them on the ground. They also require drivers to reposition wrappers if the load is secured incorrectly. All short logs must be secured by at least one wrapper. This means that short logs can usually be centered on pole loads or on either end with larger logs, allowing the driver to get up to weight and still conform to the rule. Drivers who continue to not comply with log yard rules that are clearly posted at the scales are not allowed to return.

Another guest who operates a log yard shared their practices for securing loads. They also support fully encompassing log loads when removing wrappers.

Tom shared background information of an accident that triggered the committee's discussion of securing log loads when removing wrappers, where the log yard used the "bump method." The group discussed the dangers associated with loads built above the stakes and the necessity to always crown the load for better wrapper securement during transport.

The committee discussed how log yard rules are shared with truck drivers because every log yard has their own rules. Having the rules available on the sawmill's website (if they have one) is one option. Log yard rules could be printed ahead of time for all drivers to keep in the truck, and the drivers can use their CB radio if they have questions. This method would necessitate a reliable system to alert drivers of any changes. The committee also discussed having site-specific training for drivers who arrive at a log yard for the first time; however, this could be problematic if the log yard is busy at the time.

The committee discussed the hazards associated with non-adjusting wrapper racks. Wrapper rack are designed to protect drivers, but it can be a challenge to get a load lined up close enough to a non-adjusting rack to provide effective protection. A committee member stated that making contact with the load is essential when securing the load. A recommendation was made to add a definition of "secured load" that would specify that no logs can fall off the truck.

There was a suggestion to look at videos of how things should not be done; however, obtaining such videos may be difficult.

The committee discussed submitted suggestions from a member to modify 437-007-1005, 437-007-1100, and 437-007-1110 to provide greater protection for forest products drivers. Tom also provided a handout that contained wrapper removal rules from other regulatory agencies (Washington, California, federal OSHA, and WorkSafe BC) for comparison. It was suggested that we modify the submitted suggestions so that a recommendation can be made for future rulemaking.

**Action:** Tom will use the suggestions and put together all comments and suggested language for the next meeting. If anyone has any other suggested language, they should share that with Tom.

## **Tethered logging variance update**

Tom reported that Oregon OSHA has granted a total of 14 research variances for tethered logging. Since the last meeting in March, 3 additional variances were approved. Not all research variances get approved. Employers must directly provide all the information that the FAAC recommended during the development of the [“Oregon OSHA’s revised guidelines for using tethered logging systems.”](#) Employers seeking a research variance must include such information in their request form rather than simply providing the manufacturer’s operator manual and expecting Oregon OSHA to search for the applicable information.

It was mentioned that some operators under the research variance are not reporting tip-over incidents. Tom reminded the group that a tip-over incident is not reason in of itself to revoke a research variance. However, not reporting such incidents is a breach of the variance provisions and a valid reason to revoke a variance.

## **New Business:**

### **T-Mar swing yarder front guarding**

The committee was presented with an old photo of a T-Mar swing yarder followed by a revisited discussion of concerns the committee had for the manufacturer’s front guard design during the September 17, 2015 meeting. A member explained that since that meeting, the manufacturer had redesigned the front guard to be closer to the front window. It is the manufacturer’s responsibility to verify if the machine meets applicable standards. Tom suggested that the manufacturer contact him if they have questions about it meeting Oregon OSHA’s Division 7 requirements.

### **Wrapper breaking strength requirements**

Under 437-007-1015, *“binders, chains, cables, synthetic materials, fasteners, wrappers, or other wrapper attachments must each have a minimum breaking strength of not less than 15,000 pounds.”* A committee member asked if there is a way to allow the use of wrappers with a lighter breaking strength for lighter loads. The group discussed the various options of wrapper weight and strength. It was mentioned that the way drivers throw their wrappers significantly contributes to the development of shoulder injuries due to overexertion. Injury reports from one company significantly dropped when they started using lighter wrappers.

A committee member stated having the CB radio located above the driver’s head can also contribute to shoulder injuries from repetitive motion reaching overhead. He

recommended relocating radios down by the driver's seat to help prevent such injuries.

Tom reported that Gary Beck, Oregon OSHA's statewide safety enforcement manager, is retiring at the end of this month and Chuck McFarland from the Oregon OSHA Medford Field Office will be filling in until the position can be filled.

**Action:** Tom will talk to Gary to see if OSHA's policy would allow lighter weight wrappers. It was noted that we cannot be less effective than the federal requirements.

### **Do tethered machines have to work two tree lengths apart?**

Under 437-007-0805(1), "*the minimum distance between mechanical falling machines or personnel must be twice the height of the trees being felled.*" However, there are various practices when work is being done only one tree length apart such as when a team of two or more hand fellers are working on the same tree. Committee members indicated that the hazard of trees being felled on newer machines with protective structures for falling objects and roll-overs is reduced, while directional falling methods typically used with feller-bunchers would also reduce the likelihood of an unintended strike. The committee asked if there is a way to allow a site-specific work plan where a shovel logging operation is closer than two tree lengths to the tethered machine.

A committee member stated that tethered logging operations were creating hazards for hand fallers who go in afterwards. He suggested that there should be a rule that requires hand felling activities to occur before tethered logging operations. However, under 437-007-0800(7), "*workers must not fall or buck trees within a unit of standing timber prior to any cutting operation if such falling or bucking creates a hazardous condition for subsequent cutters or operations.*"

**Action:** Tom will present the current two tree length requirement issue to Oregon OSHA's policy group.

### **Should radio communication be an acceptable method of communication for workers who are single jacking?**

Under 437-007-800(4), "*workers who are single jacking must be positioned so they are close enough to render assistance to each other in case of an emergency. They must be: (a) Within sight of each other, or (b) Able to talk to each other by natural unassisted voice communication.*" A committee member stated that there are times when workers cannot be two tree lengths apart and still be within sight or audible distance from each other. However, with radio communication, you can be in constant communication and still be close enough to render assistance. Also, radio

technology has improved since the rule was written. The committee recommended allowing the use of radio communication to comply with the rule.

**Action:** Tom will present this recommendation to Oregon OSHA's policy group and report back to the committee.

### **Senate Joint Memorial 7- Requests that Congress authorize and appropriate funding for US Coast Guard air facility in Newport in perpetuity**

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017 was introduced at the federal level on May 18, 2017. This federal bill will allow funding of the helicopter facility in Newport through 2019 if approved. Oregon OSHA will be tracking the progress of legislative activity and future funding.

### **Oregon Forest Industry: A Comparison of Occupational Safety and Health Measures, 2015**

Comparison fatality data was distributed.

### **Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q3/FY2017)**

The committee reviewed the accidents reported to Oregon OSHA since the previous meeting.

### **Roundtable:**

No time

### **Meeting adjourned 12:30 p.m.**

### **Next Meeting**

When: Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Associated Oregon Loggers Office, 2015 Madrona Ave SE, Salem, OR 97302