

**Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
June 9, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Steve Aulerich	Jim Gahlsdorf	Rocky Shampang
Mike Barger	John Garland	Bruce Skurdahl
Gary Beck	Rod Huffman	Bryon Snapp
Tom Bozicevic	Kathleen Kincade	Brian Tour
Mike Coiner	Larry Kirkpatrick	Teri Watson
Mark Dvorscak	Tyson Losli	
Stephanie Ficek	Nate McMurtrey	

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

The group introduced themselves.

The group approved the March 10, 2016 meeting minutes.

Continuing Business:

Tethered machine logging – Oregon OSHA updated the guidelines to obtain a research variance for tethered logging based on recommendations from the committee. Research variances that Oregon OSHA is granting is temporary (possibly two years) until rulemaking can allow for tethered logging over 50 percent slope. Tom passed around the revised variance guidelines from Oregon OSHA (dated 3/2016).

Oregon OSHA has received seven variance applications. Two have been processed and granted as a final order, and one has been granted as an interim variance until the final order can be granted. Oregon OSHA is waiting on additional information specified in the guidelines from the other employers who have submitted applications. The process takes about 60 days once a complete application has been received because Oregon OSHA must publish the request of the variance in the Oregonian and give the public 20 days to request a public hearing. There hasn't been any public response to date.

Oregon OSHA will not be publishing names or details of the variances once they are granted, but if there is a public request for the information, Oregon OSHA is obligated under Oregon's public records request laws to provide the information.

The committee discussed that there may be a misconception that if the feller buncher manufacturer specifies that the machine's engine and hydraulic system is capable of operating on slopes over 50 percent, a variance is not needed. Per the committee's recommendation, Oregon OSHA will further update the variance guidelines to specify that the need for a variance from the slope restrictions in 437-007-0935 is for machine stability for operator safety, not engine or hydraulic system function. It was also recommended to remove the requirement to report semi-annually the "number of trees cut or volume of timber transported," and to specify the timeline that research variances will remain in effect until rules are adopted (possibly in 2018).

New Business:

Factor of safety for wire rope (general requirement) – There is a concern that there is currently no general minimum safety factor requirement in the Division 7 for wire rope. It was recommended that we develop a minimum 3:1 factor of safety for design tension in cable yarding systems. The group looked at wire rope data including wire rope specifications from the Division 80, Appendix 80-M entitled "Typical Wire Rope Specification", excerpts from Oregon OSHA's Yarding and Loading handbook, and generally accepted design factors from other industries. The reason it isn't currently in the logging code is because then Oregon OSHA's enforcement has to be able to verify if the safety factor was followed and they may not have the capacity to do that.

The group discussed revising a table previously available in "Typical Wire Rope Specification" to eventually be included in Division 7 for guidance. A stakeholder will revise the table to incorporate the types on wire rope commonly used today in cable logging operations for the committee to review. A committee member suggested we consider including a minimum wire rope design tension of 3:1 for cable yarding systems in 437-007-0200, Site Planning and Implementation, in future rulemaking activities.

The group agreed that if someone developed proposed language for recommending a wire rope safety factor, then we could present it to the rulemaking subcommittee. We briefly discussed our current list of Division 7 revisions. Individuals can bring additional rule issues to Tom and we can discuss them at a future meeting.

Splicing wire (Larry's agenda item) – The group was presented with an anecdotal pull-test study on various splicing methods to compare splice failure to wire rope rated breaking strength.

Whether a tension monitor could be considered a tension limiting device for a yarder – The group discussed using a tension monitor to give data to the operator and help them make more informed decisions and work at a lower factor of safety. The committee discussed whether a tension monitor could be considered a tension-limiting device, and the possibility of incorporating tension-limiting devices into the rule.

EPA's Revisions to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) – Oregon OSHA administers and enforces the EPA's Worker Protection Standard in agriculture. According to the EPA, forest activities are considered agriculture. The group was given a comparison document showing what is changing in the new rules. It was mentioned that our committee has limited contact with workers who handle hazardous chemicals. Such activities are performed by forest management services who do not regularly attend FAAC meeting. The committee is invited to comment through Tom on the rulemaking.

Heat Stress – Oregon OSHA is considering developing rules to mitigate the hazards associated with heat stress after being approached by representatives from the agriculture industry. Since heat stress can affect workers in other industries, Oregon OSHA is reaching out to interested groups to participate. A committee is being formed to discuss the possibility of rulemaking and seeking input from various industries before any decision is made. It's possible that the rule would apply to a cross-section of industries. The FAAC members are invited to participate. The committee members can let Tom know if they are interested in participating – preferably before the first meeting on July 26, 2016 (9 a.m. – noon) at Oregon OSHA's Portland Field Office.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q3-FY2016):

The committee discussed two fatal and two hospitalization events that were reported to Oregon OSHA during the Q3-FY2016. The discussion included a concern identified during an investigation where a folding stretcher that was available to move an employee with an amputated leg, was not effective in moving them 900 feet up a 60 percent grade. As a result, the victim remained down in the brush for four hours until EMS arrived. The committee discussed revising the stretcher requirements to address such issues.

Roundtable:

Webinar for using mobile anchor app – coming in July. Look for mobile app on Oregon OSHA's website.

Oregon OSHA grants – Grants will be available starting July 6, 2016. Oregon OSHA coordinates grant funding to develop innovative workplace safety and health training programs. The grants focus on programs that target an Oregon industry or a specific work process to reduce or eliminate hazards.

Any employer or labor consortium, association, educational institution affiliated with a labor group, or other nonprofit organization may apply. Employers cannot use the program to fund training projects for their employees. Applicants may apply for up to \$40,000 per grant project without a requirement for any matching dollars or in-kind contributions. Go to Oregon OSHA's [grants webpage](http://osha.oregon.gov/edu/grants/Pages/default.aspx) for an application packet and contact information. <http://osha.oregon.gov/edu/grants/Pages/default.aspx>

Meeting adjourned: 12:25 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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