

**Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
June 11, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Rocky Shampang
John Garland
Rod Huffman
Mark Gustafson
Jeff Wimer

Teri Watson
Steve Aulerich
Tom Bozicevic
Mark Standley

Jim Gahlsdorf
Dan Sommers
Stephanie Ficek
Mark Dvorsack

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The group introduced themselves.

The March 12, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Continuing Business:

Tethered machine logging.

The committee continued their discussion on “tethered machine logging” or more accurately referred to as “cable assisted machine logging.” The Oregon State University College of Forestry is currently waiting for a grant approval to begin conducting research on this method of mechanized logging on steep slopes.

The group agreed that it would be premature to talk about developing rules at this stage since more information and better understanding is needed. Industry representatives believe that using these systems will reduce the number of injuries to workers on the ground, and that these systems would not eliminate all cable logging or hand felling jobs. Some committee members expressed concern that these systems would result in hand fellers having to cut on even more steeper slopes; however, they also indicated that hand fellers are not experiencing injuries due to slope conditions.

Rod passed around a list of 40 questions that the State of Washington Department of Labor & Industries asked regarding cable assisted logging.

The committee agreed to continue their discussion on cable assisted logging and possibly plan a field trip to Washington to observe the process. Weyerhaeuser may also continue to participate with future committee activities on this matter.

Whistles systems subcommittee update.

The subcommittee reported issues with the current whistle systems in the mandatory Appendix 7-A. One issue is that skyline systems in use today have many subgroups that are not

addressed, such as a slack pulling line. Committee members discussed specific whistles that they use that further showed inconsistency with current rule requirements. Another issue is that the current whistle systems include whistles that combined separate actions that are redundant and make each system more complicated than they need to be. The committee agrees that an industry standard should be developed that better aligns whistle systems with current cable logging practices and equipment; however, the revised whistle systems should not be mandatory.

Steve recommended cleaning up the whistle system in Appendix 7-A, especially removing medium whistles and inconsistencies. He also recommended developing a set of core whistles for a skyline group. The group agreed that the subcommittee will develop a set of core whistles before the next meeting. Steve will develop the set and send it to the subcommittee members.

New Business

Machines used to secure log truck at log yards.

Tom explained the issue that was identified during a previous accident where a load wasn't encompassed or effectively secured, and the driver was struck by a log that fell off the load after he removed his wrappers. John indicated that he is aware of similar events that have occurred. Mark Standley recommends going to the yards to find out why they are not encompassing the load. He agreed to do that and report to the group.

House Joint Memorial 20 (78th Oregon Legislation Assembly).

Teri reported that the House and the Senate agreed at a state level to keep the Coast Guard open in Newport. This will now go to the federal level.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q3,FY2015):

Tom reported 4 hospitalizations since the last meeting, and one fatality that occurred yesterday that was not on the report and is under investigation.

Roundtable:

- Teri reported on recent grants that are available from Oregon OSHA.
- Mark Standley reported on the increasing number of injuries due to the heavy side-entry cab doors on the new machines. Jim suggested a motorized door – he will get some more details on this option and report back to the committee.

Meeting adjourned: 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, Sept. 15, 2015 at 9 a.m. (*Rescheduled for Sept. 17th*)

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