

**Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
June 13, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Steve Aulerich
Tom Bozicevic
Heather Case
Mark Gustafson
Rod Huffman
Larry Kirkpatrick

Dave McLaughlin
Brett Morrissette
John Myers
Wayne Oja
Greg Pellham
Joey Sayles

Bruce Skurdahl
Bryon Snapp
Renée Stapleton

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

The group introduced themselves.

Tom explained the appearance of the agenda for this meeting, which is laid out consisting of agenda items from the last meeting's minutes.

The group discussed the March 14, 2019 meeting minutes. The group recommended no changes, and **approved the March 14, 2019 meeting minutes.**

Action Items from March 14th Meeting Updates

Citations and outcomes for accident and fatality investigations

Previously, the advisory committee had discussed Oregon OSHA starting a website for the logging community, specifically to include follow-up on accidents and fatalities in the industry, by providing the synopsis, as well as a ticker across the top tracking fatalities, and places to post relevant hazard alerts, and potentially Washington Dept of Labor and Industry alerts.

Renée notified the group that Oregon OSHA is still working on the website, including collecting information to put on the website. The group will be notified when it is up.

Action Item: Continue designing and publish website and compiling info- notify group when page goes live.

The group previously reached out to Oregon OSHA consultation, which the group was told about last meeting- per Rocky, no new intakes for consultation. Renée reminded the group that employers have to request consultation themselves, so it is good to get the word out as a group.

The group discussed which fatalities would appear on the site, using the current report of accidents and fatalities. Oregon OSHA stated that they can separate out natural cause fatalities, or fatalities not on the job site as not being a "result of logging activity". Also, Renée clarified

that because the website will go more in depth with the accidents and fatalities, and that will include whether or not an inspection is done. Tom identified the fact that a few of accidents and fatalities on the current report are due to or appear to be due to natural causes. The group clarified that motor vehicle accidents should be included as they are part of the entire process of logging activity.

Bugs in the Brush

Tom asked the group to review a handout at the previous meeting, and advised that group members did not provide any specific feedback before this meeting. Oregon OSHA had a logging forum, where they also reviewed the handout. The Oregon OSHA group made two recommendations related to: verbal communication, and the steepness of terrain when front and back logging. The executive team will be considering those. In general there was positive feedback for the publication, Oregon OSHA will be moving forward with the publication. Tom let the group know there is still time to provide recommendations to Tom.

The group also discussed insects encountered while logging. Particularly ticks. Members of the group discussed their tick bite interactions and the number of recordables from tick bites. One member shared that their company had 6 recordables for proactive treatment related to tick bites this year so far. While these are in the “other” recordable activity column, but do still count as recordable incidents. The company emphasizes the proactive treatment of tick bites to prevent injuries and catch any potential Lyme disease. The group also discussed that the ticks are not freezing out and becoming more prevalent. Some group members also discussed their interactions with bees last year versus this year.

Action Item: A group member offered to share their company’s written tick bite policy. They sent it to Tom and Tom sent it out to the advisory committee email group soon after the meeting.

To bring it back to communication devices in the brush, Tom pointed out that this publication won’t include specific prescriptions or rules, as it is hard to make rules or regulations regarding working under loose items.

How to educate the logging industry to help prevent reoccurrence of injuries and fatalities- group recommendations

The group discussed more ideas about how to continue to educate the community regarding accidents and fatalities. The group also discussed that we need to keep in mind smaller companies who may not have the same knowledge base and resources available to them.

Rocky also suggested revising and reposting Oregon Logging Fatality Articles. Tom brought examples to the meeting. These are reports of Oregon fatalities from the 1980’s, with a one page explanation of the fatality and a hand drawn picture showing the mechanism of the fatality. The group observed that some of these same fatalities from the 80’s are still occurring. The group also discussed the benefit of pictures and illustrations of fatalities, especially to make sense of complicated fatalities.

Oregon OSHA representatives discussed the turn-around time on potentially refreshing these, and that they could potentially have a short turn around, and could use interns regarding the art.

This led to a discussion by the group of an email distribution list- this could include a potential resurrection of the logging newsletter, and maybe a quarterly email that notifies subscribers what Oregon OSHA has updated on the website.

Action Item: Oregon OSHA will create a logging distribution email list for forest activities items (not rulemaking, that is a separate list).

Action Item: Oregon OSHA will update the accident prevention sheets from the 80's, including translating them into Spanish, update information, and remove dates, for fatalities that are still relevant today.

Washington Logging Initiative Program

Tom followed up with Beth Covert of Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. She is the program manager of the logger safety initiative. Tom handed out Beth's PowerPoint of the presentation on the program. He also handed out to the group an overview of program requirements. This is a program that, if an employer follows the requirements (separated out by tiers), they receive a discount on their workers' comp rates. The program provides discounts per employee hour. The logger safety initiative also provides sample accident prevention programs, which Tom brought for the group to look at.

Tom stated that the initiative began partially due to high workers' comp rates for the industry in Washington and a concern of underreporting the actual hours worked to workers' comp. The program data shows a trend of lowering numbers of accepted claims.

The group discussed what the required audits of the program might look like. Tom stated he could reach out to Washington L&I to ask them to come speak to the committee, but the group did not indicate any interest of having a guest speaker at this time. Tom also stated that there is a lot of resources available on their website. The group discussed potential differences between SAIF and the logging initiative program.

Action Item: Tom will send the group a link to the Washington L&I logging initiative program webpage. He sent this link shortly after the meeting.

Renée stated that if Oregon were to go down this path, Oregon OSHA would have to have a larger conversation with the Workers, Compensation Division. This may require a statute change- and would be a much larger issue.

Distribute the current list of potential Division 7 rulemaking to the group

Tom reported this was completed.

Send out the lockout/tagout hazard alert to the tethered logging variance holders

Tom reported this was completed.

Publications

There is a tethered logging program directive that Oregon OSHA is working to revise.

Oregon OSHA is working on a hazard alert involving a worker killed on farm equipment while making a fire line. This also relates to current pre-proposal rulemaking involving non-entry, non-structural fire fighting, which may pull from the good examples contained in Division 7 rules. Oregon OSHA will share this hazard alert as well as any results from rulemaking with the group when each are done.

Oregon OSHA is finalizing the "Securing loads at log yards" publication. The next publication will be on securing loads at the landing, that may touch on landing sizes. The group discussed landing sizes and had a discussion of potential liability issues regarding inadequate landing size.

The group also discussed the use of safety consultation as a resource, particularly regarding landing size and pre-job consultation.

Tethered Logging Program Directive Revision

The tethered logging variance now has 22 participants. Variance language has been revised to include language that a variance reviewer may be a consultant. Tom stated that consultants will be utilized more for field reviews of variances due to limited agency resources and

AOL has circulated the tethered logging program directive and is working on getting it out there.

The group discussed the annual variance reports that they receive from Tom. Some in the group thought it might be good to have other variance participants see that information. Tom discussed the idea that some variance holders may be hesitant with having the specific information they report be available to other participants. The participants get the total number of hours on slope, and Tom discussed perhaps aggregating report information or somehow not distribute numbers or reports connected to specific participants. The group discussed doing a high view of variance information, including lessons learned, scrub employer info and maybe put this on the new logging website.

Tom also pointed out that at this time, he does not have email addresses for all participants.

Action Item: Tom will work on getting email addresses for all variance holders- to allow for quick distribution of information.

The group also discussed that variance holders should be reminded for the consequences for under or not reporting, and perhaps consultants could share information from the annual report to encourage variance participants to report.

The group asked when Oregon OSHA will make a decision regarding tethered logging rulemaking. Renée answered that making rulemaking at this time could be in conflict with the current Forestry Protection Laws. However, Oregon State University is researching environmental issues that the Department of Forestry could consider, who typically looking at steep slope logging from an environmental impact standpoint. Tom reminded the group that John Garland recommended putting together a new subcommittee for tethered logging rulemaking, and that a list of committee members who are interested in participating has been developed.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q3/2019)

The committee reviewed the accidents and fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA between April 2019 and June 2019. The group discussed the fatalities, and discussed how people release twistlers (which was the cause of one of the accidents).

Rod reported that AOL is doing supervisor training with employers. The group also discussed the potential for Oregon OSHA to make videos regarding what to do, or what not to do, during specific logging tasks. Renée stated typically OSHA does not make videos that include what not to do, but they could make some videos about correct ways to do things.

Roundtable

Joey from Oregon OSHA handed out a policy memo, that is not available for distribution to the public, regarding the use of rigging to assist in rescues when time is critical for survival. Oregon OSHA representatives stressed that while the use of rigging in such instances is allowed, it must only be done when necessary to expedite an injured worker to receive advanced medical treatment for potentially life-threatening injuries. Employers choosing to use rigging for emergency extrication from the brush must use appropriate equipment and have their crew practice an established procedure.

Renée reported that Oregon OSHA is going to put on a conference for Spanish speakers conducted only in Spanish. Potentially this will take place in November, and Renée will get info to the group when available.

There is a heat stress program directive available, as there is an emphasis program in place for the summer months, beginning June 15th. Oregon OSHA inspectors will talk with every employer inspected during the summer months about heat stress.

Action Item: Renée will send the heat stress program directive out to everyone in the group. She did this soon after the meeting.

Tom reported for Teri that Oregon OSHA is tracking House Bill 2020- our official position is neutral.

Meeting adjourned 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

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