

**Oregon OSHA  
Forest Activities Advisory Committee  
December 13, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Steve Aulerich  
Francisca Belart  
Tom Bozicevic  
Heather Case  
Mike Coiner  
Mark Dvorscak  
Jim Gahlsdouf  
John Garland  
Jim Geisinger

Mark Gustafson  
Ben Hainley  
Rod Huffman  
Larry Kirkpatrick  
Tyson Losli  
Teresa Lundy  
Mike Montgomery  
Brett Morrisette  
Wayne Oja

Greg Pellham  
Rocky Shampang  
Bruce Skurdahl  
Bryon Snapp  
Trena VanDeHey

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

**The group introduced themselves.**

The group discussed the June 14, 2018 meeting minutes. Specifically, the group asked that the phrase “high-test steel” on page 3 be changed to “extra improved plow steel”. Tom stated he would make that change in the minutes. After that is fixed, **The group approved the June 14, 2018 meeting minutes.**

In the discussion of the meeting minutes, the group also discussed that the Oregon OSHA policy team examined the issue of breaking strength for wrappers. Last meeting, the group calculated that, because of Oregon’s requirement of 4 wrappers on long log loads, using wrappers with a minimum breaking strength of 11,250 lbs. could possibly provide an similar aggregate breaking strength as using 3 wrappers with a minimum breaking strength of 15,000 lbs. (as required by ODOT and WA L&I). Tom explained that Oregon OSHA would not be creating policy on wrapper size at this time, and informed the committee he added the consideration of changing wrapper breaking strength to the rulemaking list for Division 7 for the future. The group also discussed the placement of wrappers, the length of chain, and the effect of this on ergonomics/weight for the thrower. Lightweight wrappers are preferred by drivers. A suggestion of reconfiguring the design of wrappers by moving a portion of the chain, that is normally thrown, to the held end of the wrapper to reduce throwing weight, was discussed. The group suggested potentially changing the number of wrappers thrown, but this would require rulemaking.

The group also discussed the research, throwing underhand can reduce strain on the shoulder. Bending and picking up binders was also found to contribute to back injuries, this was found to be an issue from the landowner study.

Tom stated that securing loads at the landing will be the next hazard alert after the hazard alert about securing loads at the log yard is completed.

## **Continuing Business**

### **Mechanisms of Injury and Illness**

Tom handed out a handout that was a list of the mechanisms of injury, which is a list out of the Field Inspection Reference Manual (FIRM). The group was curious about how Oregon OSHA puts together their scheduling lists, and they moved on to the topic of inspection scheduling.

### **Forest Activities Inspection Scheduling**

Tom explained how Oregon OSHA schedules inspections with logging employers, including the point system: violation history, weighted claims count, weighted claims rate. He also handed out a forest activities inspection scheduling list rules from Division 1 (437-001-0057) and program directive A-244.

The group discussed Failure to Abate violations and how to avoid failure to abate violations.

The group also discussed the weighted claims count and weighted claims rate- Tom has been unable thus far to get an explanation of the parameters of weighted claims rate. But then the group discussed a hypothetical injury and how that would affect inspections and scheduling.

*(Update: The claims rate is calculated as either the points/FTE (if the FTE number is greater than 0) or points/employee count. FTE means full-time equivalent.)*

The group also discussed House Bill letters, which are sent to high hazard industries (of which logging is always a part) letting them know about inspections and the Oregon OSHA consultation program. The group discussed how these relate to inspection scheduling (they are not tied to the scheduling list). Then the group moved into a discussion of what happens if an employer is on the list of the Top 50, how do OSHA inspections happen? 5 ways: Scheduled, emphasis, complaint, self-referral, and reportable accidents. There is also a relevant publication called "What to Expect in and Oregon OSHA Inspection," and also video resources on Oregon OSHA's website regarding this subject.

Tom explained that Michael Wood wanted the group to know about how the Division schedules inspections, and Michael will likely come speak to the group at the next meeting in March. Tom also let the group know that Oregon OSHA will be hiring some new forest activities inspectors in the Salem area.

Someone in the group asked what a comprehensive inspection includes- inspection of the company's fixed location and at least one mobile site. Bryon Snapp, Statewide Safety Enforcement Manager, reminded the group that during the opening conference, the inspector should be telling the employer why they are there.

### **Rigging crews consisting of two bugs**

There was recently a formal hearing addressing this agenda item- the case involved an accident where two crews were presetting chokers approximately 200 – 400 feet apart, and each crew only had one bug and one radio. The employer was cited for insufficient bugs (not having 2 per crew). The administrative law judge (ALJ) concluded that OR-OSHA established the violation.

There was a presentation by a committee member regarding the facts of this formal hearing and interpretation of the rule. Some employers in the group believe that the rule means that there should be two bugs where the chokers are being set, wherever that is. They stated contract loggers may have trouble complying with this rule every time. In this case, the distance of the two crews from one another seemed to have been taken into consideration.

The group discussed who should have a bug, how often bugs are broken, and the role of eyesight of the crews versus straight distance. Tom handed out a portion of the Opinion and Order with the language and rationale the ALJ used. Some in the group think that the ALJ's interpretation of the rule could be an issue, and that compliance may be an issue as well. The group has previously discussed that each crew should carry two bugs. The group also discussed this accident that led to this specific inspection, and the presence and communication of these crew members. The group brought up a question- What is Oregon OSHA going to do in the future about this? It would be hard to write a rule encompassing every choker setting situation where two separate crews on a cable operation are presetting chokers. The group also discussed one member rigging crew versus two or more member rigging crews. Tom stated this is something we could potentially put on the rulemaking consideration list, although the group did not agree to put it on the list right away.

The group further discussed the cost of bugs, and the distinction that could be made between when crews can see each other versus when they cannot see each other. The group emphasized that the second bug person would likely need to be safely located where the turn is coming out to identify and effectively react to hazardous situations.

The group discussed whether this needed rulemaking or just clarification. The group felt there should be clarification about presetting as well. Crew members paying attention matters in this situation. The group emphasized that whatever is put together, we have to be careful not to eliminate the production advantage of presetting chokers. A contributing factor in this accident was how the worker tried to untangle the "cat's ass" in the carriage by holding onto the rigging while jumping off a stump.

Tom discussed the adopted rulemaking on penalties that went into effect at the beginning of 2018 and how that affected the penalty for the violation. Tom also stated that what the judge decided does not change what Oregon OSHA will be doing in the future or the policies of Oregon OSHA.

The group decided that it would draft some recommendations on situations where two separate rigging crews on the same cable yarding operation could safely comply with the 2 bug rule by only carrying one bug per crew. Two members in the group volunteered to draft something and send it to Tom.

### **How should lift tree guylines be tied off?**

The committee member who requested the agenda topic was not in attendance. The group decided to table this topic for the next meeting when he would be available.

## **Tethered Logging**

### Research Variance Report Summary

Tom passed out a handout of the July 2018 tethered logging variance report summary. This is a report of information from all employers who have been granted a research variance for tethered logging regarding their systems. This report contains data from the current reporting period (Jan 2018 through June 2018). The variance group has over 17,000 hours of total use of tethered logging on slopes of 50% or more. For this reporting period the total hours was 7,238.14. There have been no recordable injuries reported during tethered logging operations, although the group discussed the tip over brought up before, and the potential of some employers not reporting adverse events and near misses. Tom stated that he has conducted some field reviews of tethered logging operations that includes operator interviews. Tom emphasized this is not an enforcement activity, but only to gather general information, ensure compliance with variance provisions, and speak with employer and operators on the use of their tethered logging system.

A committee member stated that the research done by him and his colleagues indicates that it would take approximately four times the hours of machine time to manually cut the same amount, or about 51 hand-cutter years for the total amount of trees that have been cut by machine under a research variance since the first issued variance in May 2016.

The group discussed concerns with under reporting or inaccurate reporting, however Tom did state that there have been no reported hospitalizations or fatalities.

Employers with a variance are reporting that connection points are receiving the most wear and tear, and not as many ergonomic concerns, although the Oregon State University research team is looking at those potential issues.

The group discussed how, eventually, Oregon OSHA will have to come up with a basis for rulemaking, or at least a best practices document, as variances cannot stay in place forever. Some of the representatives from research being done at OSU stated they are studying soil stability conditions and will eventually bring this information to this group.

The group also discussed differences between European machines and US machines, as well as the movement of machines within soil, line slacking and traction assistance. The group emphasized that pre-planning must be done, and operators/employers must reevaluate as needed when conditions effecting operations change.

There was also a discussion of groups that are working with tethered logging in Washington and New Zealand, groups here are doing consultation with these people, and the issues are similar as what we're discussing here, except a little more quantified (since they have been doing it a little longer in NZ). Some of those outside groups have taken x-rays of the ropes and end connections, citing that inspections of these areas are critical.

Washington has a best practices documents, and Tom is working to share and trade information with them and between other states. Once Washington's revised best practices document is available to the public, Tom will send it to the group.

The group discussed how to get guys trained on these machines, and came up with the idea that people should likely start with the manufacturers. A member indicated there is a training

session in Washington for operators next year, and the group discussed that it may be worthwhile to get operator training in Oregon.

### **Securing Log Loads at Log Yards**

Tom passed out to the group a draft of the hazard alert, which was fully formatted with pictures. Tom emphasized to the group that the pictures included may not be the ones they use in the final product, but looked for feedback from the group. Tom stated the amount of language used is not typical for a hazard alert, but there was a lot of information to convey. Tom also pointed out the importance of showing the bump method that causes problems in log yards, especially through a picture. The main message of this document is that, for the load to be secured, it has to prevent logs from going over or in between the stakes from the side where wrappers are removed.

The group suggested to add that it is not recommended to walk underneath the carriage while unloading. The group also discussed removing wrappers from the back side of the load. But the downside is that securers would not see the unknowns on the opposite side if they did that. The group also suggested that pictures include “ugly loads” or fiber logs, as those will be problem loads. The group also made general comments on the document and discussed short logs and their placement in bunks.

### **Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Calendar Year 2018)**

The committee reviewed the accidents reported to Oregon OSHA in the year 2018. Specifically, the group discussed the April and August long lining fatalities. There have been 10 fatalities so far in 2018, 22 hospitalizations. One fatality was determined to be due to natural causes. The group also discussed the mechanisms of injury that are common in these hospitalizations and fatalities.

The group requested that, if possible, Tom provide more follow up details of some of these accidents and fatalities as inspections are concluded. The group also discussed practices in Chile and New Zealand for being in the clear or ensuring workers are in the clear. One method used in Chile is using red stakes as visual markers of where to stand in the clear. The rigging crew must retreat past the red stakes before the turn is sent to the landing.

### **Roundtable**

The group discussed long logs and a too small landing citation- which may need to be addressed about the type of wood people are actually moving- requested that this be put on the agenda for further discussion.

Tom also gave the group a handout from the Bonneville Power Administration of guidelines for logging activities on or near power-lines. Bonneville Power will be attending a future meeting to discuss logging safety near rights-of-way.

A members of the group presented a short slideshow regarding wrappers, placement and distribution of weight of log loads. The group was educated on how the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) does a tilting test to see if a load is secured.

Bryon stated he intends to participate in FAAC meeting more frequently, and reiterated Oregon OSHA’s search for a new logging inspector. He also stated he would like to bring a logging inspector with him to each meeting.

Rocky informed the committee that Rod Cameron, Oregon OSHA Consultant, who has been with Oregon OSHA for 33 years and specializes in logging safety, will be retired by years-end.

Trena gave the group a rulemaking update, and provided a handout of ongoing and upcoming rulemaking.

**Meeting adjourned 12:21 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:**

When: Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

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