

# Oregon OSHA

## Forest Activities Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2018

#### **Attendees:**

Steve Aulerich  
Francisca Belart  
Tom Bozicevic  
Jeff Carlson  
Mike Coiner  
Mark Dvorscak  
Stepanie Ficek  
John Garland  
Jim Gahlsdoug  
Jim Geisinger

Rod Huffman  
Kay King  
Larry Kirkpatrick  
Brett Morrissette  
Wayne Oua  
Greg Pellham  
Joey Sayles  
Bruce Skurdahl  
Trena VanDeHey  
Teri Watson  
Jeff Wimer

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

**The group introduced themselves.**

#### **The group approved the [March 8, 2018 meeting minutes](#).**

The group discussed the March 2018 meeting minutes and Tom explained they were slightly edited regarding the discussion of the December 2017 meeting minutes where wire rope thickness was briefly discussed. Since the language in the draft of the December meeting minutes did not conclusively identify the wire rope size discussed, the size indicated was removed to prevent inaccuracies.

#### **Continuing Business**

##### **Tethered Logging:**

##### **Current research variance provisions**

Tom passed around the draft of provision changes for tethered logging research variances. These provisions better align with the best practices used in Washington. He read provision #11 about side washing. The provision in part reads, "...when using a stump or tree to side wash tether lines, the line deflection angle should be less than 40 degrees unless the operator has determined that a greater angle can be safely used."

Tom explained that research variance reports are due by the end of next month (July 2018) and the new provisions will be mailed to them after field visits for renewal.

A member questioned the use of "competent person" vs "qualified person" in #7, #12, and #14 of the provisions. Tom explained that he used language from the rules to reduce confusion, and will change #12 from qualified to competent. He also explained the difference between qualified

and competent persons. The group looked into the definitions of terms in [Division 7/A, 437-007-0025](#).

**Competent person** – *A qualified person who has been authorized by the employer or employer representative to:*

- (a) Identify existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are hazardous or dangerous to employees, and*
- (b) Eliminate the hazard or take corrective action.*

**Qualified person** – *A person who has:*

- (a) A recognized degree, certification, professional standing, knowledge, training or experience.*
- (b) Successfully demonstrated the ability to perform the work, solve or resolve problems relating to the work, subject matter, or project.*

### **Struck-by categorized hazards:**

#### Local Emphasis Program (LEP): Struck-by Hazards in the Logging Industry

Tom passed around the logging struck-by local emphasis program from Oregon OSHA ([Program directive A-245](#)). The group discussed the struck-by accidents and Tom explained the struck-by mechanism of injury as well as other similar mechanisms such as struck-against, caught-by, etc...

A member gave instances where “struck-by” was used to categorized somewhat insignificant injuries, which only cause a bruise or brush with a branch, by SAIF and NCCI because there is no other category to put the injury. Then the company gets put on an inspection list from Oregon OSHA because of these claims. Tom requested that these concerns be put in writing so that we could possibly come up with solutions that prevents this unintended consequence of having such limited categories of injuries from accident claims.

Another member suggested that when we look at these reports, the emphasis program could possibly look at why people are not getting in the clear.

It was explained that Oregon OSHA uses accepted disabling claims for the inspection scheduling and just a bruise or splinter generally doesn't result in medical treatment that would be the basis for an accepted disabling claim. It was reported that these minor claims are falling under accepted disabling claims. Oregon OSHA no longer just uses disabling claims to schedule inspections, but also considers violation.

Tom will put together a piece on how Oregon OSHA puts together their top 50 Forest Activities scheduled inspection lists and bring it to the group.

Tom also explained the tethered logging struck-by local emphasis program ([Program directive A-298](#)).

### Hot saw safety zones

The group discussed safety requirements around tethered logging and the use of a hot saw for the 2018 Pacific Logging Congress Live in the Woods Show. The group discussed ejection zone for hot saws and there is a point of ejection on the left side of the hot saw that can shoot up to 2,000 feet. It was mentioned that you can eliminate thrown objects with additional guarding. Oregon OSHA has a chain shot hazard alert, which points to chain saw maintenance, and could be applicable to hot saws. A variance was discussed to allow operators and visitors to get closer to the saw for demonstration. Oregon OSHA typically doesn't go against the manufacturer's instruction to allow workers to approach machinery closer than what the manufacturer recommends. And Oregon OSHA doesn't regulate actions of visitors. If Oregon OSHA was to provide a variance, we would need a rule requirement to base the variance on.

### Log Truck Wrapper Materials

Tom sent out information from Kathryn Thomas of Siletz Trucking Co. This excerpt discusses using wrappers lighter than the current standard of 15,000 lbs. (breaking strength) to reduce muscle skeletal injuries. The group discussed the various ways to throw wrappers to improve technique and reduce injuries. Other injuries occurred picking up the wrappers and there are ways to hang the wrappers to avoid injuries from picking them up.

There has been research on the breaking strength of the wrappers. It was found, at that time, that 8,000 lbs. was the breaking strength. A member presented information from other research on 7x7x7 and 7x7x19 cable-laid wire rope (galvanized-performed). The information from Kathryn's excerpt includes 3/8 inch rope and we should add "extra improved plow steel (EIPS)" and remove "7/16 inch IPS wire rope" if we add this to the code.

The question of is 15,000 lbs. too conservative was raised. For flatbeds and frame vehicles the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration provides 1/6 of the weight of the load as a guide. Does this make sense for our rules of logging loads? At least one wrapper manufacture designs this way. This does not apply to pole trailers in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. In 2016, the Canadians provided an interpretation (because their rules didn't mention pole trailers) that the 1/6 rule does not apply to pole trailers.

FPinnovations developed a report of overexertion injuries from installing log load wrappers that can be found on WorkSafe BC's website. It was noted that the Canadian highway load capacity is different than ours in the US. They have longer chain length due to this load capacity.

It was noted that Oregon uses 4 wrappers and Washington uses 3 wrappers with the same 15,000 lbs. breaking strength. Could Oregon use lighter wrappers and still have an overall wrapper breaking strength equivalent to Washington as demonstrated in the following equation:

$$15,000 \times 3 = 45,000 \text{ and } 45,000/4 = 11,250$$

The group consensus is for the concern of the shoulder damage of the drivers and would recommend lightening wrapper weight while maintaining stability of the load.

## **Roundtable**

**Fold up canvas stretchers used for injured workers was presented.** Do they meet the intent of the rules and are they stiff enough to not aggravate the injury? Oregon OSHA's workplace safety and health rules are minimum requirements. Employers must evaluate the actual working conditions to determine the appropriate type of stretcher that would be needed to extricate an injured worker without causing them additional harm.

**Steep slope research project update:** The project is in the final year of work. There are currently 16 operators in various aspects of work. Their sample proves contractors would save 13 cutter years and landowners would save 41 cutter years. The project is not ready to recommend code language for tethered logging, but would like to present finding when concluded.

**Oregon OSHA training grant** applications are accepted from July 6 to Oct. 5.

**Machine cab guarding.** A logging company reports being visited by an OSHA compliance officer three times for a 2013 machine cab compliance that has the required stickers on the cab. Tom explained Oregon OSHA's rule requirements on cab protection in [Division 7/H, Machines used in Forest Activities](#). Employers should ensure cabs are compliant before purchasing.

### **Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Q2/FY2018)**

The committee reviewed the 7 hospitalizations and 4 fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA.

Tom will email these reports to the group.

**Meeting adjourned 12:35 p.m.**

### **Next Meeting:**

When: Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018 (**cancelled**)