

Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 8, 2022
9am – noon

Attendees:

Renee Stapleton	Tami Plikat	John Garland	Greig Lowell
Bryon Snapp	Jim Gahlsdorf	John Myers	Steve Ulrich
Dave Boyd	Tom Bozicevic	Dave McLaughlin	Matt Kaiser
Bruce Skurdahl	Larry Kirkpatrick	David Grim	Larry Phipps
Jackie Boyd	Denise Dethlefs	Kevin Lyons	Angie Marsh
Mark Dvorscak			

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions
- Approve June meeting minutes
- Tethered logging research variance modifications
- Yarding whistle systems
- Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report
- Roundtable (time permitting)

Renee Stapleton started the meeting at 9:04am and introductions were conducted.

Member thanked Renee for continuing to facilitate FAAC meetings while as the Acting Administrator for Oregon OSHA.

Review of June meeting minutes:

Member motioned to approve, a second member approved the minutes. No objections. Approved.

Tethered logging research variance modifications (Tom Bozicevic)

- Want to make clarifications and modifications to research variance provisions.
- Provision 7, note 'Daily line inspections' and 'Unit startup line inspections' – inspect the maximum portion of tether line, after 2,000 hours of use. Replacement after 2,000 hours no longer required.
- Specifies base machine must be set up to minimize unintended movement when operating; there have been incidents related to this.
- Question: What is the difference between ROPS and tip-over protection?
Answer: Tip-over protection is a method to protect the non-boom side of excavator type machines as specified under Division 7/H, and the ROPS provide roll-over protection as specified under ISO performance criteria.

- Question: What is specific current restriction?
Answer: Division 7 rules limit steep slope machines to 50 percent slope unless specified by the manufacturer for machine stability.
- Question: Does Forest Practices Act have guidance?
Answer: The Act addresses logging operations on steep slopes. Oregon OSHA allows tethering logging through a research variance due to an allowance in the Act for research purposes. Waiting to see ODF's rulemaking outcome; Oregon OSHA does not want to develop rules that would potentially be in conflict with the Act.
- Tom posed the question: Are you seeing changes in steep slope logging manufacturing?
Member: Yes, fewer boots on the ground due to advances in machines. We've developed a new winch combination that provides more efficiency. The biggest issue is the system where cutting, placing, and yarding is all happening. Manufacturers are offering a factory hitch designed for larger loads; and rigging for winch-assist, which works on steep slopes.

Yarding whistle systems (Tom Bozicevic)

- This committee previously revised whistle systems for Division 7 to better reflect what is being used; based on AOL member survey information. Concern is whistles in conflict with each other. Realized that AOL wants to adopt revised whistle systems sooner than later.
- This is on the list of Division 7 rulemaking activities. Timelines not established.
- For the enforcement side, employers must follow an established whistle system.
- Bryon Snapp added: If an accident or fatality happened because of nonconforming whistles, OSHA could issue a citation. This has not been a case thus far. The challenge is allowing ALL nonconforming whistles.
- Member: The revised whistles are related to whichever line is being used. Moving away from outdated systems.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (Greig Lowell & Tom)

- Reviewed each event.
- 2 wildland firefighters died this season in Oregon in incidents relating to falling trees. Investigations ongoing. Scenes change dramatically when assessing due to nature of fire.
- Bryon Snapp added: When investigating, Oregon OSHA doesn't want to disrupt the firefighting in progress.
- Question: Do the contract employees pose concern?
Answer: Oregon OSHA's role is overarching, asking if policies and training are in place with each employer, as well as chain of command.
- Question: Regarding fatality/struck by in domino felling situation: How to avoid? Answer: Tree springs back in unpredictable ways; recommendation for employees should be to take cover in a 'safe spot' to hide behind to eliminate being in harms way. Domino felling is prohibited.

Statistics: Disability Claims in Logging

- Member: Data (which is from DCBS) speaks to nature of injuries.

- Historical trend (1996-2021) shows improvement in fatality & injury rate over time in Oregon.
- Note: The age of workers involved in claims has increased during this time, such as ages 60+ has more claims than in prior years; may be due to workers staying in this industry longer.
- Oregon has added more mechanized logging over time, which is a factor.
- Question from member: Are log truck drivers included in this count?
Answer: Yes, they're included, but only if they're covered by workers comp. insurance; however, many are independent contractors not covered by Workers Comp.
- Question from member: Can loader operators place wrappers?
Answer: Yes, wrappers can be placed by the loader to limit drivers having to throw them. Best practice.

Roundtable

- Comment from member: A lot of materials from AOL are now offered in Spanish. It's challenging now offering Spanish materials that workers from various Spanish-speaking countries don't always understand fully.
Question from Greig Lowell: Do you have suggestions?
Member: Maybe not "Spain-based Spanish." And content in English should be simple so it's easier to translate.
Tom Bozicevic: Maybe try a Spanish-speaker as a trainer.
- Question from member: Has anyone tried new Wavecel hardhats?
Answer from member: My staff don't like them; they want traditional hardhats.
Member: I've heard they sit higher on the head; doesn't seem secure up high.
Member: I've heard carbon fiber hats are good. My observation about Wavecel is they're a company based in bicycle and snowboard helmets, and logging head injuries are of a different nature.
Member: Our SkullBucket hardhats can get dented easily, which could result in an OSHA violation. But inexpensive plastic hardhats are not sufficient. And SkullBucket hardhats are expensive and need to be replaced frequently.
Member: Metal hardhats are being phased out in a lot of states; carbon fiber hardhats seem adequate.
Member: Our company provides sturdy plastic hardhats; employees can buy different ones if they want to.
- The December 8th meeting will be held at AOL's Salem office/virtually.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.