

Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Committee
Minutes
March 9, 2023
9:00 am – noon

Attendees

David Hurtado	Tami Rockwell-Plikat	John Garland	Mark Dvorscak
Greig Lowell	Wayne Oja	John Myers	Steve Aulerich
Dave Boyd	Tom Bozicevic	Kate Ryan	Jeff Wimer
Bruce Skurdahl	Larry Kirkpatrick	David Grim	Kevin Lyons
Jackie Boyd	Rod Huffman		

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions
- Approve September 2022 meeting minutes
- Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (OR FACE) program developing: New logging employee training materials
- Tethered logging research variance reports overview
- Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report
- Roundtable (time permitting)

Greig Lowell started the meeting at 9am and introductions were conducted.

Review of September 2022 meeting minutes. Member motioned to approve, seconded by a second member. September 2022 meeting minutes approved.

Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (OR FACE) program developing: New logging employee training materials (Jeff Wimer)

- Jeff shared his concern about how a company had onboarded 30 employees in one year. New employee training was handing them a stack of papers to read before starting work the next day. OR FACE recognized the need to build a training program for new employees to better prepare workers. Jeff indicated that the logging industry conducts on-the-job training, but questioned the amount of time they have to do that. He asked, what are the most likely things to get a person seriously injured or killed? The goal of the proposed training program that OR FACE is developing is to provide workers a more interactive method of learning basic safety on-the-job practices through online modules and short quizzes.
- Jackie Boyd (with OR FACE): shared presentation.
- David Hurtado (with OR FACE): OR FACE conducts surveillance, investigation, and assessment of traumatic occupational fatalities in Oregon. Produces safety educational materials and provides outreach to promote and protect workers' safety.

- Current project is to update and develop interactive online training based on *Yarding and Loading Handbook*. A portion of the draft electronic version was shown during meeting. Goal is to have it completed in spring. They may contact FAAC members to ask them to test the training and provide feedback.
- Jeff Wimer: Would like to have video and make it more engaging. We already have a narrative of the major hazards.
- Member suggestions:
 - Videos have to be contact specific to the task. Not just platitudes.
 - Needs to work *well* on mobile devices too.
 - Suggestion for the whole handbook be posted online with the training.
 - Suggestion to go to a jobsite. Also show new types of logging equipment/technologies being used.
 - Needs to be in small chunks of information in short durations (such as 3-minute videos).
 - Assign to the current workers the same videos that the new workers are watching so that current workers can use the same wording and examples as in the videos, when performing follow-up on-the-job training.
 - There needs to be a competent person to conduct training.
 - Modern logging employers are very concerned about their employees' safety.
 - Have training in both English and Spanish.
 - Training should emphasize that the online portion is just part of the training process.
 - Emphasize that the video is not a replacement for on-the-job training and is only one component of the learning process.
 - Look at online video segments on the 18 hazardous scenarios. Look to copyright permissions for these videos before use.

Tethered logging research variance reports overview (Tom Bozicevic)

- These are the most recent ones. Have not seen any new interventions.

Questions/comments?

- Member: Could you identify which of these companies are using more than one machine? #5 for example. Are they running two shifts?
- Tom Bozicevic: Try to limit what company information listed. Will add number of systems used.
- Member: Have you seen a change in machine operators? Drop off of ones who started it and then stopped? Or those who continued?
- Tom Bozicevic: We have some of that information. Some stopped for various reasons.
- Member: Are assigned variance numbers consecutive each year?
- Tom Bozicevic: Not exactly. This list is not just for tethered logging. We use the same variance numbering system for variances unrelated to logging.

Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (see below)

Fatality & Hospitalizations Reported to OR-OSHA (9/1/2022 – 02/28/2023).

10/4/22 – Hospitalization – Struck by

The employee was setting a choker on a log. The employee went on the downhill side to get the choker, when the log started to roll, resulting in the employee being rolled over by the log.

10/4/22 – Hospitalization – Struck by

A choker setter was waiting in a location when a root wad from a burned tree detached from a nearby bluff and struck him.

11/28/22 – Hospitalization – Fall to lower level

The employee slipped and fell off logs stacked on a log truck. No safety gear was worn and there were no witnesses. The truck driver heard a scream, exited the truck and found the injured employee. The ambulance was called.

1/9/23 – Hospitalization – Struck By

The chaser was up on the landing assisting the process operator in moving a big log. The chaser was standing off to the side of the chute when the yarder engineer was landing a turn. The chaser ran in, and as the turn was landing, was struck by a short log, resulting in the chaser being injured.

1/17/23 – Hospitalization – Struck By

The rigging crew was shipping a turn of logs to the landing. The turn was at mid span on the road line. The yarder engineer was in the cab of a Thunderbird TSY 355 swing yarder. The turn was an average turn (not heavy). As the turn was being hauled in, the outside guyline broke near the babbitt/quick connect. This caused the yarder to fall over onto its side. The injured employee, who had been loading trucks, was at the landing to help the chaser when the yarder tipped over. The injured employee was struck by the guyline resulting in his left arm being broke just below his shoulder.

- Member: We have discovered that you can't see the damage inside those guylines. You can't know when it will happen. What we do is every six months, the guylines and extensions get removed, inspected, and new nubs to prevent this.
- Member: Those new cables are dipped into acid. Put a new guyline nub into a bucket of baking soda solution to keep it from rusting.

1/30/23 – Hospitalization – Caught In

The employee was spooling line onto the line machine and applying oil onto the lines. As the employee was spooling the line, a piece of metal on the drum shaft caught his right foot and pulled it into a pinch point, resulting in the right big toe being severed. The machine was stopped and reversed to get the foot free.

2/13/23 – Hospitalization – Fall to Lower Level

The injured employee had walked his log loader onto a lowboy trailer and was exiting the machine cab. Conditions were wet and icy per employer investigation. Employee miss-stepped as he was dismounting from the cab, and fell approximately 10 feet to asphalt and gravel down below.

Roundtable

- Greig Lowell: There is an active legislature session and Oregon OSHA is tracking around 111 bills. These are shared only for information purposes. Oregon OSHA does not take a position on the bills.
 - SB 592: cleared Senate, moving to House:
 - “Whenever an occupational death has occurred in a fixed place of employment, the director shall, in addition to any inspections conducted pursuant to complaints filed against the place of employment, conduct a comprehensive inspection of the place of employment within one year following the date on which the closing conference associated with the occupational death was held.”
 - Potential increase in minimum penalty from \$100 to \$1100.
 - Member: In regards to SB 592, why put that in statute? I feel that this pulls power away from Oregon OSHA enforcement officers and could affect outreach in those situations.
 - Greig Lowell: It may redirect resources to the additional comprehensive inspections. This bill originated with OR AFL-CIO.

- Member: An increase in the minimum penalty could negatively affect/destroy small businesses, add up quickly on hazards that would not affect safety (first aid supplies, for example).
 - SB 907: “Any employee, acting in good faith, may refuse to perform a task assigned by an employer in any of the certain circumstances”[, one being,] “The employee has a reasonable apprehension that the performance of the assigned task would result in serious injury or impairment to the health and safety of the employee or other employees.”
- Member: Question on not including chainsaw certification presenter in today’s meeting.
- Tom Bozicevic: Since we don’t approve any products or services, Renee Stapleton thought it best to leave it up to committee members. Some had concerns that we may be requiring this. So thought it best not to include it.
- Member: We need to ask, who certifies the certifier of this?
- Member: Look at differences in accreditation, licensing, and certification (done by organizations and someone should be monitored).
- Member: Also need to assess competency even if someone is certified.
- Member: For 2022, the 10 most expensive accidents, insured by SAIF incurred \$2.6 million in workers’ comp payout so far.
- Member: Any more feedback on new WaveCel hardhats?
- Member: A few employees like them and a few don’t.
- Member: One employee likes it after he adjusted it for better fit and installed the available lights for it.
- Member: Auto bunk wrappers: Weyerhaeuser has a few of them. Asked if they were put out in the woods and they said not yet.
- Tom Bozicevic: They are using them on their site, not going on public roadways.
- Member: I wonder if ODOT would consider it secured enough.
- Tom Bozicevic will send a video and information on the system to the group. Our question would be, is it as effective as wrapper? I can ask them if they want to allow the committee to come out and see it.
 - Following meeting: Per committee members’ request at today’s FAAC meeting, the following link is to the [ExTe90 bunk](#) on a Weyerhaeuser log truck operated in their controlled environment:
 - [Auto secure bunk trial - YouTube](#)
- Member: Do tethered logging research variances require an employee to be stationed at the base machine?
- Tom Bozicevic: No, a person stationed at the base machine is not required. However, the requirement prohibits someone in the base machine cab when the tether line(s) is under tension unless the cab meets applicable Division 2/H tip-over protection requirements.
- Member: I saw an outfit using one skyline with two yarders in a grapple system, and they change roads by moving those two lines.

Next meeting will be June 8, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.