

**Oregon OSHA**  
**Forest Activities Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**March 14, 2024**  
**9:00 am – noon**  
**Salem AOL office, Zoom meeting**

**Attendees**

Adam Hopkes, Dave Boyd, David Grim, Denise Dethlefs, Jennifer Stewart, Kate Ryan, Kevin Lyons, Larry Fipps, Mark Dvorscak, Matt Kaiser, Matthew McCartney, Rachel Madijilesi, Steve Aulerich, Steve Pilkerton, Tom Bozicevic

**Agenda**

- Introductions
  - Approve December 2023 meeting minutes
  - Foldable/collapsible stretchers
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- Introductions were conducted. December 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

**Discussion**

- Foldable/collapsible stretchers
  - Comment. In logging settings, a plastic basket stretcher is needed. A wire mesh basket or a flexible stretcher isn't going to work. There is slippery ground, rubble, etc. which causes bouncing, slipping, and tripping. It is not just about person-power.
  - Comment. I have been in situations where the soft stretcher made the difference, but they are not the end all be all. It worked well in a pit-situation where it can be folded and in a person's pocket, for example.
  - Q. Does having only this type of stretcher (as opposed to another type) comply with Oregon OSHA rules? There is a request to add this topic to the list of rulemaking. Could it be written in a letter interpretation?
  - Comment. There was a request to have a definition for a stretcher. This would allow us to know how to proceed sooner than with the official rulemaking process.
  - A. There are limitations to this type of stretcher: no rigidity for example with a spinal injury, no ability to strap a person to the stretcher. Oregon OSHA looks at feasibility of complying with a rule. The training required to know which type was appropriate in different types of situations would be complex.
  - A. There are certain situations where a foldable or rigid stretcher would be more useful than the other.
  - Comment. One thought was that if a [rigid] stretcher was available, then it could be packed out once more people arrived.
  - Comment. The benefit to the worker is that they would know the requirements of stretchers and a clearer definition of stretcher to meet requirements.
  - Comment. Fewer workers vs more workers on site should be considered.
  - A. This topic will be taken to the Oregon OSHA Policy Group.

- 2023 Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report was shared.
  - More information was asked about the parking brake failure in the 9/28/23 fatality. Members suggested that looking at the parking brake in this incident should be part of the Oregon OSHA inspection process.
  - Members were guided to Forest Activities Incident Reports on the Oregon OSHA website: <https://osha.oregon.gov/pubs/reports/Pages/forest-activities-incidents.aspx>
  - Q. Does anyone confirm that these are actual hospitalizations or if the person was just looked at in a hospital?
  - A. This is a list of what is reported to Oregon OSHA. There is a list of what is considered first aid. There is a distinction of what is reportable vs what is recordable. We recognize that employers may be acting in good faith by reporting and it doesn't meet the threshold to actually be required to be reported.
  - Q. Can reporting a hospitalization trigger an inspection?
  - A. Yes, it could.
  - Q. Is this situation required to be reported if an incident occurs? Worker is driving a company vehicle on the way to or from work but is on their personal time.
  - A. It is not automatically triggered because they are in a company vehicle. We would look at if the driving was work-related.
  - Q. What if there are six workers in the vehicle, for example (not carpooling between jobs, but specifically commuting to or from work)? Is only the driver working?
  - A. We will look into this type of scenario. One question would be, can employees choose to drive separately?
    - Member: Yes, but there is the expectation for them to ride together to meet insurance requirements of the landowners. If an employee misses the work vehicle, they drive to the edge of the land and are picked up.
    - Comment. For some employers, only the driver is getting paid.
    - Comment. One example shared: in construction was that everyone in the vehicle was getting paid for time in the vehicle.
- **Roundtable**
  - Q. Regarding 437-007-0830, *Tree Pulling: (8) (8) In tree pulling operations, the back cut may be below and on a horizontal plane with the face cut.* (<https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/div7/div7I.pdf#page=11>). What is the advantage of this?
  - A. Member: When you are pulling straight up the hill with a line holding the tree, if on the backside, you would have to stand up high to be even. There is nothing to keep the tree from kicking back.
  - Comment. This can be added to the list for Oregon OSHA rulemaking.
  - Comment. Suggestion to add, "During these type of operations, the back cut should be under the face cut."
  - Comment. This is only specific to tree pulling in the rule.
  - Q. Has there been a repeat offense cited for in Division 7 (within the new penalty structure)? We would be curious if there was an appeal process.
  - A. Haven't seen any at this point in Division 7. There have been some in general industry.
  - Comment. There would be a desire to have the Oregon OSHA rules in Spanish.
  - A. Let OSHA know if there are supplemental documents that are not currently translated and should be.

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<https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/Contact-Technical.aspx>

Next meeting is June 13<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm, AOL office and Zoom