

**Oregon OSHA**  
**Forest Activities Advisory Committee**  
**September 12, 2024**  
**9:00 am – noon**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Dave Boyd, Denise Dethlefs, Garrett Weaver, Greig Lowell, Jason Richardson, Jim Gahlsdorf, John Garland, Kate Ryan, Kevin Lyons, Larry Fipps, Larry Kirkpatrick, Matt Kaiser, Rachel Madijilesi, Teresa Lundy, Tom Bozicevic

**Meeting Agenda:**

- Introductions
  - Approve June 2024 meeting minutes
  - OR-OSHA strategic planning and other updates
  - Weyerhaeuser presentation
    - Topic: Automated Flagger Assistance Devices in Forestry Operations
    - Presenter: Jason Richardson, Engineer
  - Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (see below)
  - Roundtable (time permitting)
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- Introductions were conducted.
- June 2024 meeting minutes were approved with deletion of a section that was removed because it couldn't be clarified in the minutes.

**OR-OSHA strategic planning and other updates**

- 5-year federal OSHA Strategic Plan will be turned in in the spring. We have a listening session September 30 to hear suggestions and ideas for improvement. See the [Performance, strategic, and state activity reports](#) for more information.

- Discussion on changing the word "Committee" in the name Forest Activities Advisory Committee. This isn't really a committee since we aren't appointed, don't follow specific procedures, and has open membership. It is also not a board. This will not be a change in the function of the group. Another group, as a rule advisory committee, would be created for active rulemaking, with option for attendance for rulemaking discussion.
  - Member: This group has discussed changes to Division 7 since the 1970s. Changes were made based on meetings and discussions from this group. This group looks at needed clarifications and adjustments, just on an ongoing basis. It is still a committee not a council.
  - Committee is prescriptive and takes on a legal connotation (public comments, etc.).
  - Q. Member: are construction and fire groups that are changing names also doing similar rule discussions? Are there rules regarding the words "group" or "council"? Are there other words that could be considered?
  - Members: idea to wait until rulemaking begins and then change the name of the group to be code rulemaking review committee, or similar. Suggestion to not use the word "group."
  - Comment. Member: We have been operating as a committee: we have a chair, agenda, clear focus, and vote if needed. There is rule adjustment over time after discussing certain decisions. In this group's meetings, minutes are taken, reviewed, and approved. There is recognition to follow Oregon OSHA's procedures in rulemaking.
  - Members requested to hear the risks, legal issues that are perceived for retaining the word "committee."
  - Suggestion to defer to the next meeting for further discussion. Change name if needed once active rulemaking occurs.

## Recent Rulemaking

- Agriculture labor housing rule has been proposed. Going in to public comment period with public hearings in October 2024.
- Change to HAZCOM rules due to federal OSHA's change in their rules (added pictograms to SDSs). Expected additional training of 15 minutes for employers to go over information with employees. Rule would go into effect at some point in 2025-2026. This isn't yet proposed.
  - Q. Is this for all SDS's or just aerosols?

- Not just specific to one chemical (or aerosols). Any change to SDSs already must be brought to the attention of employees working with/exposed to.
- Member: Oregon OSHA needs to reach out to other industries (timber groups, contractors) to get this information out to them, beyond the Federal Register.
- The training may be reviewing specific changes to SDSs and possible changes for employees, for example. The method to train would stay the same, but the additional training would be on specific SDSs that those employers/employees are using.
- Adopted as of 9/11/24, non-substantive, minor corrections on over 60 rules.

## **Weyerhaeuser presentation: Automated Flagger Assistance Devices (AFADs) in Forestry Operations**

- Presenter: Jason Richardson, Engineer
- Discussion about this system's adherence to Oregon OSHA's codes. The discussion looks at use on private forest roads that fall under Division 7. Focuses were safety, reliability, and economics. An AFAD takes the human component out of the task (people get fatigued, may be hard to find, have to be pulled from the logging operation, risk to human flagger). The system has video capability. Can be set for vehicles to be required to have brakes set before monitor/operator of AFAD then allows driver through. In a test setting, employees were in favor of the AFAD. Limitations: antenna range (can be boosted to two miles); Not useable in future AFAD development with helicopter logging; not useable in some scenarios with future AFAD development of timber cutting operators.
  - Q. Oregon OSHA: rule says, flagger or equivalent. Is their certification on these also for public roads?
  - No, not that we are aware of.
  - Q. Are there additional barriers to keep someone from bypassing the system? Previously a person could radio ahead that someone bypassed it.
  - Cameras are add-ons.
  - Comment. It would be good to have a sensor/alert for the camera so the worker doesn't need to be staring at a screen at all times.
  - There is an alert that someone has come up to the arm, not specifically that someone breached the stopper. Member: It would be helpful to have a motion detector facing backward that shows that someone bypassed the stopper.
  - Q. What signage is used?

- The same signage as with a human flagger.
- Q. What is the battery capacity? Solar panel. In test, they ran 2-3 month job on a private road (possibly not as much traffic as on a public road) and never had to recharge it. They checked battery level every Friday night and could leave them there.
- Q. Are there other manufacturers for these?
- Yes, there is a handful of manufacturers.
- Q. Can it be programmed to stay up/close so only one vehicle can go through?
- The operator has to manually tell it to open and close. There is a motion sensor on the stopper that says someone is at the gate.
- It runs on different frequency than radios. They are not sure if they have their own channel frequency if several companies are using their pairs of AFADs in the same area.

## **Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (6/1/24 – 8/31/24)**

- **8/3/24 – Hospitalization – Unknown medical**

The employee lives at the job site. The equipment operator was onsite on August 3, 2024, to repair equipment. The operator was in the equipment and looked over at the employee and saw him lying on the ground. It is unknown if the employee tripped or had a medical event. The operator was able to revive the employee, who was unconscious for approximately ten minutes. The equipment operator drove the employee to the hospital. The employer knew that employee was taken to the hospital, and thought he was admitted for observation only.

- Q. Did we get brief descriptions of the five fatalities (three since last quarter) in logging?
- A. If Oregon OSHA is aware of them, they are shared with this committee and posted on the Oregon OSHA website under [Forest activities accident investigation synopsis](#).

## **Roundtable**

- Member: Regarding the discussion of hard hat vs helmet: SAIF is making some movement and the discussion is getting a lot of traction in construction.

- Member: Regarding safety materials on yarding operations: There is a recent New Zealand article on guarding yarder operations. The United States uses the same types of yarders.
- Member: OR-FACE team has been working on an online training for chapters 6 and 7 of the Yarder Loading Handbook that is really close to completion, possibly by the end of October. It will be a free, interactive online training. We are asking for reviewers from this group.
- 4th Spanish Language conference November 5 in Hillsboro: Seguridad y salud laboral y sus derechos en el trabajo (Safety, Health, and Your Rights at Work)
- AGC Spanish conference
- AOL Conference in Lebanon on November 7, 2024.

Next meeting is December 12, 2024. (*Cancelled. Next meeting is March 13, 2025.*)