

Oregon OSHA Forest Activities Advisory Council

June 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes AOL Salem Office & Zoom

Attendees:

Barbra Anderson	Bryon Snapp	David O'Neil
Jennifer Stewart	Kate Ryan	Mark Dvorscak
Steve Pilkerton	Tom Bozicevic	Denise Dethlefs
Bob Henry	David Grim	Rachel Madijilesi
John Garland	Kevin Lyons	
Thomas Price	Tyler Teal	

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Approve March 2025 meeting minutes
- OR-OSHA strategic planning and other updates
- Rigging crew injury comparison – Oregon vs. British Columbia (Kevin Lyons)
- OR-FACE Yarding and Loading Online Training (Rachel Madjilesi)
- Slip-on caulks (follow-up from March meeting)
- Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (see below)
- Roundtable (time permitting)

Meeting was started and self-introductions were made.

Old Business:

- **Approve March 2025 meeting minutes**

Member: In the March meeting minutes draft, the reference to “soft shackle” is incorrect. They are a “synthetic end connector.” A recommendation was made to edit the March 2025 meeting minutes draft to reflect the correct terminology. The March 2025 meeting minutes were approved with such recommended edits.

New Business:

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

Federal OSHA requires this of Oregon OSHA every five years.

Requests to the Oregon Legislature from Oregon OSHA are still pending.

Confidentiality with employees in support of a violation (identity would not be released of testified employee other than to the employer/representative until it had gone before a board) and in Consultation – this did not move forward. OSHA wanted clarity to be added to the process already in place. Approval of new ALH-related positions look unlikely to move forward.

Oregon OSHA will conduct heat Illness emphasis for every inspection conducted during June 15 to September 30. However, the Heat Illness Prevention rules are in effect all year long and can be enforced.

Member: Resources how to measure percentage of workload during high heat events are available. VO₂ max (the maximum amount of oxygen your body can absorb and use during exercise) is something to consider. Scheduled rest periods are important to prevent heat related illness. Rigging crew and timber falling activities are associated with the highest workload in logging.

Members discussed wearable devices for monitoring heat effects.

Oregon OSHA: We want to see employers have a plan in place to address employee exposure and acclimatization to a high heat index. Acclimatization may look differently for different employees. How can employees get acclimatized to work safely? Employer plan may not be working for a specific employee and may need to be adjusted in the moment. This applies to all employees.

- **Informal rigging crew injury comparison – Oregon vs. British Columbia (Kevin Lyons)**

Differences in yarding practices (uphill vs. downhill), terrain, annual harvest number, remote locations (distance/time to get to the jobsite), equipment, cost of employees, fatality incident rate. Difference in yarders for a variety of reasons (terrain, financial). Not saying to switch to the BC way. Just making the statement that things look different. There are many overlaying factors.

Q. How do you keep debris from falling downhill?

A. Keep the backend of the yarder ahead. Clean off the ridge above.

Member: Causal factors may be linked to employee actions rather than work arrangements.

Q. Is tethered logging used often in BC?

A. Yes, tethered logging is used but not as easy in some terrain. Mostly cable logging is used in coastal regions.

- **OR-FACE Yarding and Loading Online Training (Rachel Madjlesi)**

This training has 22 short modules, total time of around one hour. Reach 360 system used to access training. Training is completely free. User needs valid email address. English version is out and available. We are in final stages of translating the training to Spanish. Helpful to download glossary before learner starts training. Website with courses is maintained by OHSU.

July 22, 2025 update: The OR-FACE Spanish version of the Oregon Yarding and Loading Safety Training is now live.

<https://www.supportiveworkplaces.org/oregonyardingandloadingsafetytraining>

- **Slip-on caulks (follow-up from March meeting)**

Can they be used for slip on activities? Oregon OSHA rule – must wear or equivalent. Need to be used on a heavy duty work boot. More for emergency situations where worker was not expecting to be walking on logs. Need to be adequately secured so they don't become a hazard themselves.

- **Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report**

The council reviewed three hospitalizations reported to Oregon OSHA. No fatalities were reported during this time frame. One incident was clarified.

- **Roundtable**

A member wanted to know why a research variance request by an employer to use soft connectors had been denied. With approval from the employer's representative at the meeting, an explanation that the information submitted with the application was insufficient for approval. There is an appeal process if any variance is denied that is discussed in the denial letter sent to employer.

A manufacturer representative shared examples of synthetic connectors.

Q. How does the end user know that it is time to replace?

A. Manufacturer will have what to look for / replacement criteria / obvious signs of wear.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025.