

Oregon OSHA
Forest Activities Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Barbra Anderson, Dave Boyd, Denise Dethlefs, Tyler Ernst, Larry Fipps, John Garland, David Grim, Rod Huffman, Jim Nusser, Steve Pilkerton, Bruce Skurdahl, Bryon Snapp, Mark Standley Jr., Reneé Stapleton, Jennifer Stewart, Mike Spear, Tim Ruyle, Kate Ryan

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions
 - Approve December 2025 meeting minutes
 - Oregon OSHA updates
 - Rulemaking: Annual Penalty Bulletin, Lead, Workplace Violence, and Hazard Communication
 - Administrative Office temporary relocation update
 - Oregon Board of Forestry tethered logging rulemaking update
 - [Tethered logging rulemaking text](#)
 - [Tethered logging rulemaking presentation](#)
 - Self-stabilizing yarders
 - Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (see below)
 - Roundtable (time permitting)
 - Note: A meeting on synthetic connectors will begin at 10:30 a.m. for those who wish to participate, and is scheduled to run until 12 p.m.
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- Introductions were conducted.
- December 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

Lessons learned

- Comment: Member: For an MVA, have a robust incident reporting program, near miss reporting program. This will catch work accidents that happen to and from work. The employer may find out it was a different situation than previously thought.
- Comment: Oregon OSHA: Make sure to report MVA in Oregon. If employers are unsure if it needs to be reported, they can call in to OSHA, speak anonymously at first, and talk it out.
- Comment: Member: For crews who have not worked much around felling buck timber, we are trying to help them understand.
- Comment: Member: We received kudos from a fire department on the quality of the directions and location that we gave to the fire department so they could more easily respond to the incident.
- Comment: Member: We have been surprised at what isn't reported so others don't hear about them. These incidents and accidents affect the rates for all in the logging industry. It could be a farmer or arborist using a chainsaw and not necessarily a logging employee.
- Comment: Oregon OSHA: OSHA tracks flash alerts, and they keep track of that data. It may be an independent contractor. During the annual worker memorial, the list is higher than expected each year to what has been reported to Oregon OSHA. This is workers' compensation data, so there are more protections on it. Oregon OSHA provides list to AFL-CIO. We can connect this advisory group to them to see what is shareable.

Oregon OSHA updates and rulemaking

- OSHA's "Job Safety and Health: It's the Law" poster is now called "OSHA Cares".
- Ombudsman bill: Oregon OSHA got additional grant money to focus on the fatal 4 in construction that applies across the board. This gave us four new positions for Appeals section that will help with the workload in Appeals.
 - **Annual Penalty Bulletin**
 - Oregon OSHA did temporary rulemaking due to the updated CPI not being available during the federal government shutdown. We will be doing rulemaking in late spring or early summer to add in language to give Oregon OSHA other options if October CPI is ever not available in the future.
 - **Lead**
 - We hope to pick back up on lead rulemaking toward the end of 2026. The timing will depend on where we land on Workplace violence since the same Technical specialist is working on both sets of rulemaking.
 - **Workplace Violence for Healthcare**

- Oregon OSHA is getting fiscal impacts from RAG members. The OSHA rule changes may have the most impact to this group and are complete and adopted.
- **Hazard Communication**
 - Oregon OSHA has current rulemaking in progress. There were a lot of errors, so changes from federal OSHA came out and Oregon paused rulemaking. Three revisions were released from federal OSHA in early 2026. Our goal is to propose by the end of March 2026, followed by a comment period lasting roughly 8 weeks. We will be adopting federal OSHA text and applying those to Oregon rules.
- **Tethered Logging**
 - The Forestry Board is not going to go to rulemaking on tethered logging. Oregon OSHA is considering to move forward with tethered logging rulemaking in early 2027. We are currently looking internally at what our options are. Talk with stakeholders about next steps, if that is rulemaking or a different path.
- **Emergency services**
 - Emergency services and federal OSHA have been working on rules since the West, Texas explosion 2023. Federal OSHA is moving forward with the rulemaking but doesn't have jurisdiction over public entities, so for them to build a rule that regulates the emergency services that they will not have to investigate or implement is counterproductive. States believe there should be protections, but are better addressed at state level.
 - This rule could impact volunteers significantly. Volunteers cannot be exempt in Oregon because they are considered paid for our purposes and are covered by workers' compensation insurance. We need to see where this all lands with federal OSHA, if they move forward with rulemaking with no additional comment.
- **Heat**
 - Federal OSHA is moving forward with this rulemaking. There will be minimal impact in Oregon because federal OSHA used the Oregon OSHA rule to write theirs. There was a bundle of rules in July 2025 that are being promoted differently and now being called "modernization," rather than an abolishment or a repeal. This primarily affects rules in maritime.
- **Respiratory Protection**
 - There are 15 rules in respiratory protection. It is a reduction, not an adoption, but we will need to wait and see how that affects Oregon. In relation to medical evaluations, fit testing, and all the chemical specifics, it would reduce protections

to modernize if they adopt it the way they have it now. If Oregon is already as stringent in its rules, then we don't have to adopt any changes.

- **Oregon Board of Forestry tethered logging rulemaking update**

- The Forestry Board is not going to go to rulemaking on tethered logging. Oregon OSHA will potentially move forward in early 2027. Look internally at what our options are. Talk with stakeholders about next steps, if that is rulemaking or a different path.
- Oregon OSHA: We would like to do more onsite activity. There is a significant number of variances for this. All of that will be reviewed.
- Question: Member: Have there been other accidents that we know of?
- Comment: We have heard rumors and that is hard to validate.
- Comment: Member: It is important to hear that in the industry who are doing the same processes and learn from them.
- Comment: Member: Employers working at slopes over 50% have to report and say how many hours are spent before an accident. Employers can see benefits of accidents that happen or do not happen from that data.
- Comment: Member: We want to hear loggers' perspectives.
- Comment: Member: The data is there to show reduction of cutter accidents in employer cutters, not individual contractors. This is due to safer work conditions and more employees in the cab rather than on the ground.
- Comment: Member: We can eliminate yarder settings that typically we would have to cable, yard with a machine.

Self-stabilizing yarders

- Comment: Member: At the time we wrote the rules (2003), we had yoders, not yarders. Rule 437-007-0650 is for machines and equipment used for yarding that are specifically designed to be self-stabilizing.
- Comment: Member: The machine has a blade in the front, and is designed to yard without guidelines. But there are certain road situations where it won't allow it to put in lead. The blade has to be perpendicular. It can reach off the side, and pull over with a motorized carriage.
- Comment: Member: There is an extra package option. Most times it is out in front and fine without guidelines, but it can't turn sideways and extra stability is needed, so they add guylines.
- Comment: Member: Some had shackles where a guyline could be added to add extra stability.

- Oregon OSHA enforcement went out and saw the machine and saw it with the blade out front and no guylines.
- Comment: Member: OSHA needs to give employers the ability to add guylines if needed.
- Answer: Oregon OSHA: Bryon Snapp - It needs to be determined by a qualified person rather than a competent person. Does manufacturer offer suggestions related to guylines?
- Comment: Member: It would probably be assumed it was be accepting liability. I would set an angle limit that's highly conservative.
- Comment: Member: But it doesn't work that way because it depends on where the carriage is on the cableway, itself.
- Question: It is a different class than what the rules were designed for (now hydraulic or electric equipment). What do the rules say to add stability?
- Comment: Oregon OSHA: Bryon Snapp - I can bring it up on the radar of the compliance officers, that it is not just cut and dried with these machines.
- Comment: Member: Washington either has, or is working on, rules for tethering.
- Member: We looked at New Zealand rules when working on the variance. It is being used in several other states, so Oregon employers are not unique in using it.

Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (12/8/2025 – 3/9/2-26)

- 02/06/26 – Hospitalization – Struck By
 - Employee was working in the woods when a trunk snagged hitting him in the shoulder. EMS arrived on scene taking him to the hospital for broken ribs and injured back. *Members asked for clarification of this accident so this can be used for training purposes.*
- 02/25/26 – Hospitalization – Struck By
 - A choker setter was setting a choker on a log, and then the log rolled onto him.

Roundtable

- Comment: Member: Our podcast project is moving forward in the review process. We have four episodes that will be sent to OSHA for review. The main topics ready for review are always look for a place that is safer than where you are at, "In the Clear," and self-supervision.
- Worker Memorial is April 28.

- Safety Break signup is available.
- Oregon OSHA will be trying to get information out to this group sooner before meetings. The request for agenda items will come sooner before meetings and materials will be sent out sooner before meetings.
- [Forest activity incidents](#) are on the Oregon OSHA website.
- Oregon OSHA compliance officer would ask for 300 log information during inspections.

Next meeting is June 11, 2026