

Oregon OSHA

Forest Activities Advisory Council Minutes

June 11, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Attendees

Bryon Snapp	Kate Ryan	Rod Huffman
Dave Boyd	Larry Fipps	Steve Pilkerton
Jennifer Stewart	Mark Dvorscak	Tom Bozicevic
Jill Bell	Mike Bentley	Wesley Walker
Jim Gahlsdorf	Mike Spear	
John Garland	Renee Stapleton	

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
 - Approve March 2026 meeting minutes
 - Lessons Learned
 - Oregon OSHA updates
 - Rulemaking: Annual Penalty Bulletin, Lead, Workplace Violence, and Hazard Communication
 - Synthetic connectors
 - Request to revise Basic Fire Suppression Training
 - AOL Fire Video and Training Materials
 - Basic Fire training materials and video 19:51
 - The New Generation Fire Shelter: English video 25:27
 - Quarterly Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities Report (see below)
 - Roundtable (time permitting)
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Introductions

- Introductions were conducted.

Approve March 2026 meeting minutes

- March 2026 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Lessons learned

- Member: We have had a lot of discussion about modern hardhats, some with chin straps for example. I took a new type of hard hat into the woods and it was great. They are not cheap but are good.
- Member: What is the new citation for a hard hat violation?
- Answer: Oregon OSHA enforcement does not have a new citation policy regarding the new types of hard hats, but looks at two pieces of information: Probability of injury due to not wearing it when required and Severity of the most serious injury that is reasonable to occur. We look at where those two intersect.
- Bryon Snapp: A dent in an aluminum hard hat could mean that it is weaker during any future impact. Plastic ones will likely crack.
- Member: Aluminum hard hats are easily dented and then are taken out of service.
- Member: Is there a job description below those that require a hard hat like a bump cap?
- Answer: Positions that allow for just a bump cap are rare. That would be like mechanic service.

Oregon OSHA updates and rulemaking

Annual Penalty Bulletin

- Oregon OSHA originally followed federal OSHA October to October. Oregon OSHA did temporary rulemaking due to the updated CPI not being available during the federal government shutdown. There was no October 2025 CPI. Federal OSHA did not adjust the CPI for 2026. There may be differences in Oregon versus federal. But Oregon OSHA's is required under statute. Now we are going to do permanent rulemaking in July 2026.
- We will be doing rulemaking to add in language to give Oregon OSHA other options if October CPI is ever not available in the future.

Lead

- Rulemaking will affect all industries. We are looking at September 2026 for this.

Workplace Violence for Healthcare

- Proposing end of June 2026 and will move into comments.

Hazard Communication

- Oregon OSHA proposed and adopted federal rules by reference, and updated rules that had a reference.

- Member: Will these materials be available in Spanish? There are a lot of workers applying pesticides who speak Spanish.
- Answer: Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is only required to be available in English, but training and precautions are in the employee's language. There is a grant that led to the creation of a document in Spanish listing the 150 most common pesticides in forestry.

Tethered Logging

- This is currently in internal discussion.
- The Forestry Board is not going to go to rulemaking on tethered logging. Back to Oregon OSHA. Potentially move forward with rulemaking in 2027. We are look internally at what our options are. Talk with stakeholders about next steps, if that is rulemaking or a different path.

Respiratory Protection

- Federal OSHA looking at updating 26 different rules, mostly about respiratory protection. On August 19, federal OSHA is opening a public comment period. There are changes to sawmill code related to respirators and changes to color coding. This would be to continue them.
- From chat: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (federal OSHA) has scheduled a series of informal public hearings on the proposed rules identified below. Informal public hearings will be held virtually beginning Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., and will continue on subsequent weekdays. To testify, provide documentary evidence, or question other witnesses at any of the hearings, individuals must file a [Notice of Intention to Appear \(NOITA\) form](#). There is no need to submit a NOITA if you only intend to watch the hearings. Instructions for viewing the hearings will be posted separately in the coming months. For more information, please visit the [OSHA Deregulatory Rulemaking webpage](#) and the Federal Register Notice.

Synthetic connectors

- Oregon OSHA met internally with compliance and consultation. We are going out to watch a demonstration of the synthetic connectors and will come back to have a substantial discussion. We should have an update at next meeting.
- A member requested that Renee Stapleton send the video that summarizes worker state. This is on the AFL-CIO YouTube page.

Request to revise Basic Fire Suppression Training

- AOL Fire Video and Training Materials
 - Basic Fire training materials and video 19:51
 - The New Generation Fire Shelter: English video 25:27
 - Member: This training is for those who may get called upon to help fight wildfires. There is further required training. It is not the extensive training that firefighters get. We want to expand it so people get more training. We talked about having a certified person teaching the class. The push is coming from agencies that fight wildfires and provide resources.

- Oregon OSHA has not been approached about it.
- Member: With training, we should consider the difference between accreditation (no expectation of performance) and certification (done by an organization and has some expectation of performance and failure to perform can lead to it being taken away). Licensing is permission from the state to perform a certain task. Oregon OSHA could be brought in on a true certification program.
- Answer: Could reach out to AOL representative and start the conversation. Could start with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and look at our current rule for discussion.
- Member: Needs to be available to everyone without logging in to an account. This was part of agreement with Associated Oregon Logging (AOL).
- Member: Request for steps of requirements on a piece of paper, not just online.
- Member: We need to discuss the need for a new video beyond it looking outdated.
- Member: Recognize that two state agencies have requirements.
- Answer: Renee Stapleton: It is not uncommon that there is an overlap. Our mission is employee safety and health driven and theirs is to stop the fire. We need to know their objectives.

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

- Member: The description of these accidents is sometimes vague or incomplete.
- Answer: In some situations, the employer representative reporting the accident may be in human resources for example. The compliance officer taking the report may not be knowledgeable in logging and will not use industry jargon or know additional questions to ask based on the logging industry. Oregon OSHA has three options when we get a report:
 - Inspection
 - No further action for variety of reasons, but it is entered in the our reporting system.
 - Employer inquiry, which is that we are aware but not sure if we have resources and we need more information. We will evaluate and take no further action or assign it for an inspection.
 - Renee Stapleton shared the [Department of Consumer and Business Services \(DCBS\) claims data](#).
 - Request for Mark Hurliman with the VPP program to attend a future meeting.
- March 27, 2026: Hospitalization – Struck-by
 - The corner block of the haul back became loose, possibly letting a log loose and striking the employee. Overnight hospitalization for observation only.
 - Request for additional information on this due to confusing language and that it is duplicated in this list.
 - Member: My guess is that what was holding the haul back came loose.

- April 22, 2026: Hospitalization – Fall-to-lower-level
 - The injured employee was parking the shovel, and pressure washing was being done at the shop, when the employee slipped and fell when coming out of the machine, puncturing his inner thigh and breaking his left wrist with an unknown object.
- April 22, 2026: Hospitalization – Struck-by
 - The injured employee was felling a tree when debris fell and caused an eye injury.
- April 28, 2026: Hospitalization – Unknown
 - The injured employee was holding onto two chokers and walking/running with them down the hill. Unknown cause of broken ankle.
- April 28, 2026: Hospitalization – Struck-by
 - The corner block of the haul back became loose, possibly letting a log loose and striking the employee. The employee was taken to the hospital with unknown injuries and where he is staying overnight for observation. Employee was kept for observations. No major injuries. Bruises to the body and was released.

Roundtable

- Member: We are in the middle of two podcasts being completed: “Always have a Hole” and “Meeting in the Clear.” We are going to go out and review shortly. They will be available in English and Spanish. We are planning to have 12 episodes, and they could be useful at monthly safety meetings. Episodes can be downloaded. These could also be useful for working in trail maintenance.
- Member: There seems to be increased tick activity this year. Two members had the experience, with medical professionals, where they needed to be more assertive to get antibiotics after a tick bite. Be aware that a tick only needs around four hours on a person to infect them. See [TickEncounter](#) resources. Additional materials from members will be shared with this group.
- Member: An employer asked me about a tethered variance. They are in process of getting variance. Is this still the correct process?
- Answer: Yes.
- Member: Has there been progress from ODF?
- Answer: They have decided they are not doing any rulemaking with it. Oregon OSHA can now move forward on our side.
- **Next meeting is September 10, 2026.**