

OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2008

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order in the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, in Salem. Everyone introduced themselves while the attendance roster was circulated.

Attendees

Ed Fetzarrald
John Oliver
Burke Slater
Matt Ennis
Jim Kusz
Terry Riley
Ted Kunze
Scott Neufeld
Yutonah Bowes
Doug Koellermeier
Jennifer Hess
Marilyn Schuster
Ron Haverkost
Larry Allen

Representing

Pont. F&R
Clackamas Fire
OSFFC
Career Departments
NLFR
DPSST
Canby Fire
SDAO
Oregon OSHA
Bend/OFCA
UO/LERC
Oregon OSHA
Oregon OSHA
OFIA

Old Business

Status of Current Rule Review: Marilyn Schuster gave an overview on upcoming rules changes.

PPE Changes:

Briefly discussed SCBA's and prescription face shield inserts. Under new rule would be employer's obligation to pay. Committee indicated it was current practice for fire department's to pay.

DPSST – Terry Riley:

Terry Riley gave an update on training changes at DPSST. Currently have seat belt campaign. Distributing stickers. Purchasing skid truck and skid frame for trucks that will be more realistic for fire fighters.

OFIA Safety and Survival Symposium exceeded expectations with over 400 attendees. January 9th, 10th, and 11th will be the 2nd annual symposium.

Confined Space: OFCA has engaged Bill Anderson as their representative to take the lead on this issue. He will be scheduling a meeting with DPSST to discuss adding a confined space component to fire fighter basic training.

Safety Committees: Discussed proposed changes to safety committee and safety meeting rules as well as upcoming stakeholder meeting scheduled for May 21, 2008. The rule has

not been adopted final yet. A decision will be made after the stakeholder's meeting as to whether it needs to be repropose.

SHARP – Ron Haverkost:

Ron Haverkost provided information he had obtained from OR-OSHA's Consultation Manager about the pilot project they initiated in Portland to use individual company's own five year average injury rates as the baseline rather than the industry average. OR-OSHA has proposed this option to federal OSHA for approval. Still are awaiting their response.

Ron Haverkost will redraft letter to include discussion of current practice of using roof ladders.

New Business

Safe Patient Handling – Jennifer Hess:

Jennifer Hess gave an overview of a survey that LERC conducted. Both long-term care facilities and EMS indicated that in less than 5% of cases did they call EMS for lift assists.

Fire Services believe that long term care facilities are shifting risk by calling for EMS when someone falls. More prevalent during night when staffing levels are lower.

What can fire services do to resolve this problem? One solution is to increase communication between fire services and facilities. Have had success with EMS summits to discuss the issues, equipment needs, and better communications strategies.

Talked about OR-OSHA's FOC pilot project.

When facilities have adequate lift equipment there should be a decrease in EMS calls. In addition, equipment will be made available to the community EMS responders.

Meeting Minutes:

Discussed having members forward minutes of these meeting to their respective list serves and newsletters.

Uniformity/Open Forum:

Dan Ross – Why can't you put an axe on an SCBA belt? Does that void the NIOSH approval?

Adding scabbard to SCBA belt is done by the manufacturer. However, once you put an axe in the scabbard it violates the certification. A letter will be sent to OR-OSHA for an interpretation.

Several recent OR-OSHA inspections were discussed. In the future OR-OSHA will bring data on recent inspections and any violations.

The next meeting of the Oregon OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 28, 2008 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The location will be the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon 97301.