

# OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2007

### Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. in the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, in Salem. Everyone introduced themselves while the attendance roster was circulated. Bob Garrison, Paul Esselstyn, Earl Cordes, and Rocky Hanes notified the chairman that they would be unable to attend. Rocky Hanes sent Burke Slater in his place. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, discussed, and approved. An updated membership roster was distributed.

### Attendees

Doug Kollermier  
Larry Goff  
Terry Riley  
Peg Munsell  
Ron Haverkost  
Matt Ennis  
Don Stauffer  
Jim Kusz  
Burke Slater  
Tim Dahl  
Larry Allen  
Mike Mitchell  
Barbara Belcher  
John Oliver  
Marilyn Schuster

### Representing

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association  
Oregon Fire District Directors Association  
DPSST  
Oregon OSHA  
Oregon OSHA  
Career Departments  
Career Departments  
Combination Departments  
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council  
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association  
Oregon Fire Instructors Association  
Oregon OSHA  
Oregon OSHA (recorder)  
Guest (Clackamas Fire District #1)  
Oregon OSHA

### Old Business

**FFAC information on OR-OSHA Website:** As promised at the last meeting, the FFAC Charter, membership roster, and meeting minutes are now available online and can be found here:

[http://www.orosha.org/standards/firefighter\\_advise.html](http://www.orosha.org/standards/firefighter_advise.html).

**Saw blades – report back on use and suggestions:** At the last FFAC meeting, Mike Mitchell distributed nine sample blades for trial use, and copies of the specs for K-5 and K-9 Rescue Series Diamond blades. Committee members who took the blades were asked to comment on the

blades. The comments from those who were able to use the blades were that the blades were working well and holding up for several usages. Other members were unable to use the blades due to the improper size. Mike asked the members to pass on the blades to other members and continue to comment on their use or potential improvements.

**NFPA Decision on drip torches:** Don Stauffer had no new information to report on the decision on using drip torches. The NFPA should consider the use of drip torches at their meeting later this summer. Don will report back at the next FFAC meeting in October. Don also reported that Dan Rossis (Portland Fire & Rescue), 503 823-3892, is the new chair for NFPA Respiratory Protection subcommittee.

John Oliver shared information about Compartment Fire Training – Physics in a fire. FAFT met and is working with OFIA. They developed a task force to look at developing a certification for live fire training.

**Water-rescue training:** Jim Kusz reported that Rescue 3 provides swift-water rescue training for North Lincoln Fire & Rescue. He provided the committee an article from North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 giving the history of their water rescue team that began in 1983. Jim would like to put together a “Water-rescue Summit” to show other like departments what they do and help encourage other involvement. Mike Mitchell suggested he put together a draft of the program for the next meeting. This will be distributed to help gauge interest and promote awareness of the summit. Terry Riley suggested that Thelma, at DPSST, 503 378-2408, be contacted for assistance with training ideas and needs.

**Distribute CD’s of high voltage line/ladder truck contact:** Ron Haverkost distributed an overview of the investigation of an incident where a ladder truck made contact with an energized high voltage overhead line. There is also a power point presentation available upon request. This video will be professionally developed. More information will be presented at the next meeting in October. Copies of this media can be made and distributed by anyone because it is in public domain.

Mike Mitchell stressed the importance (and requirement) to stay at least 10 feet away from all energized overhead high voltage lines.

## New Business

**Confined Space Problems:** Ron Haverkost distributed a draft version of the Confined Space Rescue Rules to be inserted into Division 2/L, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters. This draft version comes from the NFPA standards and Washington Department of Safety and Health. FFAC members are the first people to review the draft. Please review and comment (good or bad) to Ron Haverkost. You can email Ron at [Ronald.I.haverkost@state.or.us](mailto:Ronald.I.haverkost@state.or.us).

The intent of the rule is to give guidelines for fire departments to use to pre-evaluate a situation, and be trained to enter a confined space to complete a rescue.

John Oliver mentioned that the Governments Board and the Urban Search & Rescue Board should also review the proposal. Ron agreed to attend the upcoming meetings to provide an overview and discuss everything with the members. John Oliver will let Ron know when the next meetings will be. The Committee was encouraged to communicate these rule changes to the industry to get the message out.

Marilyn Schuster shared with the committee an article from the State Fire Marshal's Office identifying where some funding may be available for Confined Space Rescue training. Marilyn found the article in the Gated Wye, located at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm\\_Ed/Gated\\_Wye/2007\\_Issues/February\\_07\\_GatedWyeCOLOR.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm_Ed/Gated_Wye/2007_Issues/February_07_GatedWyeCOLOR.pdf)

### **Other Topics:**

Ron Haverkost distributed a handout of Q&A's that OR-OSHA will be using for internal training. If the Committee has any comments or suggestions, please respond to Ron Haverkost by the end of May.

Matt Ennis wanted to make the Committee aware that as of 7/1/07, structural turnouts with a 10 year manufactured date will no longer be accepted by NFPA. Peggy Munsell pointed out that OR-OSHA has not adopted that standard at this time and a company could use this as their standard if they chose as long as it meets or is as effective as OR-OSHA's standard.

Tim Dahl asked the committee if they were having back injuries relating to lifting patients. He has seen an increase of injuries now that health care workers are encouraged to call medics to lift patients. It was suggested that

Laurel Kinkle, an ergonomist with LERC (and who spoke to this Committee a few meetings ago) is available to provide training on proper methods of lifting patients. She has worked extensively with fire departments.

LERC

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Jim Kusz reported that North Lincoln Fire & Rescue is participating in a nine week fitness challenge, with Chinook Winds offering fire fighters free use of their services and facilities. For more information contact Jim Kusz.

Ron Haverkost asked each member to come to the next meeting with reports of any other meetings that Committee members are involved in to enhance overall knowledge of the types of things that is going on in the industry.

**The next meeting** of the Oregon OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 24, 2007**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The location will be the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon 97301.

Ron Haverkost is the new chairman of the Committee. Please channel all Fire Service/Oregon OSHA related business through Ron. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.