

OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2004

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mike Mitchell. The location was the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association conference room, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon. An attendance sheet was passed around during introductions. Fourteen people were in attendance:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mark Ayers	DPSST
Don Stauffer	Large Fire Departments
Ty Walthers	Large Fire Departments
Earl Cordes	Small Fire Departments
Don Jenson	Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Rocky Hanes	Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Paul Esselstyn	Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Mark Walker (Paul's guest)	Springfield Fire & Life Safety
Larry Goff	Oregon Fire District Directors Ass.
Bob Garrison	Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Daryl Rozendal	Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Jim Kusz	Mid Size & Coastal Fire Departments
Jason Jantzi	Oregon OSHA
Mike Mitchell	Oregon OSHA

The representatives from the Oregon Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, and Chemeketa Community College Emergency Services did not attend. Tim Dahl notified Mike Mitchell prior to the meeting that he would be unable to attend due to illness.

The previous meeting's minutes were reviewed and approved. One correction (spelling of Walthers) was made. The purpose for the meeting was reviewed. Jason Jantzi was asked to assist in keeping minutes.

Minimum requirements for live fire training:

Live fire training: Discussion of minimum requirements for live fire training began with review of the four suggested drafts (from Paul Esselstyn, Jim Kusz, Metro Safety Officers Live Fire Subcommittee, and Jason Jantzi)

that had been submitted. The drafts were all similar in content, each based entirely or to some degree on Annex B of NFPA 1403. The importance of providing a standard that would be usable by large metro departments as well as small rural departments was stressed. The importance of providing a standard that would allow for development of technology and advances in fire science was also stressed.

Drip torches: The use of drip torches to ignite structure training fires was discussed. Several in the group believed the drip torch is a good, safe tool to use (safer than propane torches). Others questioned the need for drip torches by pointing out other safe, successful methods of ignition. NFPA 1403 does not allow the use of drip torches. Some committee members expressed concern about potential liability if drip torches are used. No decision about drip torches was made.

Live fire training: Discussion of proposed minimum requirements for live fire training continued with review of the proposal that had been developed by Jason Jantzi and other OR-OSHA field staff. The proposal was based on NFPA 1403. Members of the OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee agreed that rules for vehicle training fires should be included (as referenced in NFPA 1403) in the proposal. Discussion about how to include NFPA 1403 material led to a consensus that a note referring to NFPA 1403 could link it with the proposed rule.

It was suggested, and agreed to by the committee, to use the proposed minimum requirements developed by Jason Jantzi as a template to work from during the next step of developing minimum live fire training requirements.

The proposal will be e-mailed to each member for his or her input. Committee members may then add to, subtract from, reorganize, or whatever is needed to develop the best list of minimum requirements for live fire training. The new rule will revise OAR 437-002-0182(10)(c). Members are encouraged to send their ideas at any time (by e-mail) to Mike Mitchell for distribution and comment by the rest of the committee. At the next meeting all ideas will be brought together into a final draft and presented to Oregon OSHA as a recommendation for rule-making.

Other business:

OR-OSHA's involvement in major incidents: Don Jenson, representing the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, presented concerns from the Fire Chiefs Association E-Board about a federal mandate (resulting from the Terrorism Task Force) requiring Oregon OSHA representatives at major incidents to act as advisors. The topic was recently presented by an OR-OSHA representative to the fire chiefs at one of their meetings. The concern deals with the role of advisor vs. the role of compliance officer. The Fire Chiefs Association would like a memorandum of understanding explaining how an OR-OSHA person fits into an incident command system. The chiefs also have concerns about the training of OR-OSHA personnel, especially at the scene of a wildland fire. Mike Mitchell suggested that these topics would be passed onto OR-OSHA management and ask that they be addressed by management at the next meeting.

Training of OR-OSHA personnel: concern was expressed by Paul Esselstyn, representing the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council, that Oregon OSHA had not fulfilled promises to adequately train compliance staff to work with the Fire Service.

Circular saws: A handout about a circular saw depth gauge, provided to OR-OSHA by Eriks Gabliks, DPSST, was passed out to committee members.

Closing:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The location will be in the Conference Room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Addendum:

These minutes were approved at the 6/14/04 meeting.