

**OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2004**

**Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mike Mitchell. The location was the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon. An attendance sheet was passed around. Fifteen people attended.

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mark Ayers	DPSST
Don Stauffer	Large Fire Departments
Ty Walthers	Large Fire Departments
Earl Cordes	Small Fire Departments
Rocky Hanes	Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Larry Goff	Oregon Fire District Directors Assn.
Mark Walker	Oregon Fire Instructors Association
Tim Dahl	Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Marilyn Schuster	Oregon OSHA
Don Jenson	Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Jason Jantzi	Oregon OSHA
Bob Garrison	Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Daryl Rozendal	Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Jack Carriger (new member)	Oregon Volunteer Fire Fighters Assn.
Mike Mitchell	Oregon OSHA

Four members were unable to attend: Jim Kusz, Medium Size & Coastal Fire Departments; Paul Esselstyn, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council; John Mack, Chemeketa Community College Emergency Services; and Ed Wilson, Large Fire Departments.

The minutes from the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Old Business:**

**Leg protection when using chain saws:** In follow-up to the discussion held at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting about the use of leg protection by fire fighters operating chain saws, Mike Mitchell presented an OR-OSHA proposal that chaps or equivalent leg protection must be worn except when actually fighting fire, with turnout trousers worn. Discussion among committee members followed, with several questions and the following comments:

- If leg protection is required in training but not at the fire, the training will not be realistic.
- Use of chaps or leg protection interferes with working from ladders, particularly when using a leg lock.
- The attack of a fire will be delayed if leg protection must be donned before using a chain saw.
- Several fire fighters might use chain saws at a fire scene, thus requiring several pairs of chaps or leg protection to be purchased and stored.
- Fire fighters receive training in how to safely use chain saws.
- No one remembers any injuries from using chain saws to ventilate with. Chain saws have become a tool of the fire service because they are fast, easy to use, and effective, especially for certain types of cuts.

Based on the comments from committee, Oregon OSHA will study the issue some more.

**OR-OSHA's role during disasters or terrorist events:** Copies of a letter sent to the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association to clarify Oregon OSHA's role during a disaster or terrorist event were passed out. Discussion followed, with questions from committee members about OR-OSHA's role, training of OR-OSHA personnel, and the potential for enforcement action against land and/or business owners. The letter will probably be discussed at OFCA Board Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The suggestion was made to invite Barry Jones, Manager of Enforcement for Oregon OSHA, and the author of the letter, to the next meeting.

**Live-Fire Training Rules:** The committee then continued work on developing minimum requirements for live fire training. A draft of suggested rules (which had been sent to everyone) was used as a working template.

- It was suggestion that under (1)(b) pre-burn planning be required for acquired structures, while standing plans be allowed for burn rooms.
- Under (2)(b) structure inspections need to be completed by "qualified persons". The terms "certify" and "qualify" need to be defined.
- The use of drip torches was discussed. A question about whether they are considered ignition sources or fuel sources was discussed. Ty Walthers will contact NFPA for their input on the matter.
- Definitions of "fuel source" and "ignition source" may lead to an answer concerning the potential of allowing the use of drip torches.

Everyone was asked to continue to review the template. Work on the minimum requirements will continue next meeting.

**New Business:**

**Understanding OR-OSHA references to NFPA:** Under new business Mike Mitchell and Marilyn Schuster explained that references to specific editions of NFPA standards in OAR 437-002-0182 currently do not allow the use of equipment purchased under the authority of a prior edition of the NFPA standard, and still in good repair. As an example, OAR 437-002-0182(13), Head Protection, was pointed out. The standard says that head protection must comply with NFPA Standard 1971-2000. OR-OSHA allows older head protection (purchased prior to the adoption of the rule), in good repair, to be used. The standard will be revised to indicate OR-OSHA's acceptance of older equipment when rule-making takes place for live fire training.

**Face shields vs goggles:** Tim Dahl requested clarification of the requirements for using face shields compared to goggles. The requirements for eye and face protection are in OAR 437-002-0182(16). Discussion focused on the sizes of face shields to use and when goggles are adequate, and when they are not.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The location again be the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem. The main order of business will be development of minimum requirements for live fire training.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Addendum:**

These minutes were approved at the 7/12/04 meeting.