

OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2004

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. The location was the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, 727 Center Street NE, Suite 300, Salem, Oregon. While the attendance sheet circulated, the minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and approved. Guests were introduced. Twelve committee members, plus one guest were in attendance. Tim Dahl, Ed Wilson, and Bob Garrison notified the committee that they would not be able to attend.

Attendees

Jason Jantzi
Marilyn Schuster
Rocky Hanes
Mark Walker
Larry Goff
Don Jenson
Earl Cordes
Don Stauffer
Ty Walthers
Daryl Rozendal
Jim Kusz
Mike Mitchell
Peg Munsell (guest)

Representing

Oregon OSHA
Oregon OSHA
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Oregon Fire Instructors Association
Oregon Fire Districts Directors Association
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Small Fire Departments
Large Fire Departments
Large Fire Departments
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Mid Size & Coastal Fire Departments
Oregon OSHA
Oregon OSHA

Presentation:

SCBA cylinder interchangeability: Peg Munsell, Industrial Hygienist in OR-OSHA's Technical Section, distributed copies of federal OSHA's standard interpretation on "SCBA cylinder interchangeability", dated 6/20/97 and explained its application. The use of one manufacturer's cylinder with another manufacturer's SCBA is allowed only in lifesaving emergency situations. SCBAs must be returned to their original NIOSH approved condition following the emergency. Discussion included what constitutes an "emergency", and the use of other departments' cylinders during mutual aid responses.

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=23479

Old Business:

Committee charter: The idea of developing a mission statement for the committee was re-introduced and discussed. Input from everyone, especially OR-OSHA, is needed for development of such a statement. Some of the topics that need to be covered are the organizational plan of the committee, its purpose and role in OR-OSHA decision-making, committee membership and representation, how often and where (it was pointed out that meetings do not always have to be held in Salem) the committee will meet, and if everyone on the committee has a vote (being cautious to have equal representation of various groups). Instead of developing a mission statement, it was suggested that it would be better to develop a charter. The committee's exposure to the Fire Service could be increased by posting minutes and agenda on the OR-OSHA website. Members' websites could also be used for, or linked to such information. A short article might be provided online explaining the committee's purpose, its accomplishments, and current activities. Ideas and comments about development of the charter should be e-mailed to Mike Mitchell. Mike will provide a rough draft of a charter at the next meeting.

Drip torch petition to NFPA: It was reported that the committee's letter petitioning the NFPA 1403 Subcommittee on Ignition Sources to address the use of drip torches, was not presented at the committee's August meeting. Apparently the letter did not make it through all the channels in time to reach the committee for their meeting. Even though the letter was not formally presented, the topic was presented by Dan Rossos and discussed by the committee. The committee agreed that ignition sources have not been addressed, and need to be for the next (2007) draft of the 1403 rules. Decisions will be made at the committee's next meeting, in June, 2005 in Las Vegas. Informal discussion at the last meeting provided agreement that fuses are safe to use (this is an unofficial acceptance). No decision was reached about drip torches.

Live-fire training rules: Work then continued on developing minimum rules for live fire training. Oregon OSHA proposed that the document the committee has been working on be made into a mandatory appendix, with a reference to the appendix located in the body of the standard. With a few changes, the appendix could be used as a checklist. Development of an appendix rather than adding to the standard is best since the amount of material which would be added to Subdivision L would dominate the standard. The proposal was discussed and agreed to by the committee. It was pointed out that the reference in Subdivision L to training provided by DPSST has already been updated to properly identify the levels. The use of drip torches was discussed. A motion was made, discussed, and passed

(with one “no” vote) to approve the use of drip torches as ignition sources (using a 4:1 diesel to gasoline fuel mixture). The general feeling is that the NFPA 1403 Subcommittee will eventually arrive at the same decision. Water supply, and how to calculate it, was discussed next. After discussion, the decision was made to (tentatively) use the formula of (length x width x height) divided by 3 per floor. Rocky Hanes will do some research and report back about available water supply formulas.

New Business:

Fire cadets: There was a short discussion about fire cadets (16 to 18 years old, and younger), and the activities they are allowed to take part in. OR-OSHA does not address the subject of age. BOLI also does not have rules addressing what activities cadets are allowed to do. It was also suggested that each department’s insurance company can probably provide some guidelines.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 1st, at 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.

Mike Mitchell will have an updated draft of an appendix of the minimum requirements for live fire training, a draft of the rule referring to the appendix, and a rough draft of a charter.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Addendum:

These minutes were approved at the 11/01/04 meeting.