

OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2005

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. in the conference room (located on the 1st floor) of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, in Salem, Oregon. An attendance roster was circulated while the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed, and approved. Everyone in the room then introduced themselves.

Attendees

John Nohr, Portland Fire & Rescue
Jason Jantzi
Tim Dahl, Clackamas County FD #1
Marilyn Schuster
Laurel Kincl
Don Jenson, Bend Fire & Rescue
Earl Cordes, Jefferson County FD #1
Bob Garrison, OFCA
Mark Walker, Springfield Fire
Michael Wood
Mike Mitchell

Representing

Career Departments
Oregon OSHA
Oregon Fire Chiefs Assn.
Oregon OSHA
University of Oregon, LERC
Oregon Fire Chiefs Assn.
Combination Departments
Oregon Fire Chiefs Assn.
Oregon Fire Instructors Assn.
Oregon OSHA
Oregon OSHA

OR-OSHA Administrator: Michael Wood, Oregon OSHA's new Administrator, greeted the Committee and shared some information about himself and his management style. Committee members then welcomed Michael and shared some of their thoughts about the past and hopes for the future. Michael was told about upcoming conferences that he might find of interest: the OFCA Conference on November 3 to 5, 2005, in Seaside; the OFCA Spring Conference on April 6 to 8, 2006, at Eagle Crest, in Redmond; and the Northwest Leadership Conference on March 1 to 3, 2006, at the Red Lion Inn -Jantzen Beach, in Portland.

Old Business:

Live-Fire Training rules: The newly adopted Live-Fire Training rules apparently are being used without any challenges. No one had anything to report about use of the new rules. It was suggested that a request be made to BPSST to install a link from their web site to the new rules on the OR-OSHA web site. Mike Mitchell said that he will contact BPSST.

Temporary traffic control rules: Mike Mitchell reported that the 2005 edition of the Oregon Temporary Traffic Control Handbook (for operations of 3 days or less) has been adopted by ODOT and is now available. Copies may be purchased from Chemeketa Community College TED Center, Flagging Certification Program, at (503) 399-5181. Cost is \$6.15 each. The handbook is also available on the “Publications” page of the ODOT Traffic Engineering & Operations Internet site, at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/TRAFFIC/publications.shtml>.

New Business:

Ergonomics for fire and emergency services: Laurel Kincl, Ph.D, a research assistant and ergonomist at the University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center (LERC), presented the (recently completed) Firefighter and Emergency Medical Services Ergonomics Curriculum guide, and briefly explained how to use each of the chapters. The curriculum was developed by the ergonomists at the Oregon Labor Education and Research Center, and was funded by a grant from Oregon OSHA. The work is aimed at reducing injuries to fire fighters and EMS personnel. The curriculum includes five modules: Introduction to Ergonomics and Cumulative Trauma; Ergonomic Hazard Analysis; Developing and Implementing Ergonomic Solutions; Body Mechanics and Back Health; and Ergonomics for Command Staff. Information about obtaining and using the guide is available from Laurel Kincl or Jennifer Hess, Labor Education and Research Center, 1289 University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-1289. The telephone number is (541) 346-3073. The e-mail address is kincl@uoregon.edu or jhess@uoregon.edu.

RFOG: Tim Dahl reported that a new organization has been formed, consisting of Portland-Metro fire service operations and safety managers. The group’s name is “Regional Fire Operations Group”. RFOG’s mission is to develop consistent guidelines among Metro Area departments in critical operational and safety-related areas.

Circular saw blades: Don Jenson reported that Wart Hog blades are still not recommended by Stihl to be used on their saws. Due to the need (as expressed by fire departments) of portable circular saws with aggressive blades, Partner (who has provided saws in the past for the Fire Service) is looking into the possibility of developing and marketing such equipment. Don will keep the Committee updated.

Water-rescue training: Jason Jantzi opened discussion about the need for water rescue training. It was reported that DPSST provides basic training, while Clackamas Fire & Rescue offers training in swift-water rescue. The need for surf-rescue training was briefly discussed, and where to obtain it, without reaching a conclusion. It was pointed out that the need for such training was limited to departments that bordered the ocean. No one from one of those departments was in attendance, so the topic was tabled until a future meeting.

Closing Remarks:

Roof anchor: A new product, called the ladder roof anchor, from Level Rite, was introduced to the Committee. The anchor may be something the fire service will find of value.

2in/2out rule: Committee members agreed that the July 21, 2005 revision of the letter of interpretation sent to Virgil Hall, addressing the 2in/2out rule (under “Laws & Rules” on OR-OSHA’s website) is acceptable to everyone.

The next meeting of this committee will be on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Salem. Please e-mail potential agenda topics to Mike Mitchell as they are thought of.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Addendum:

These minutes were approved at the 4/12/06 meeting.