

OR-OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2007

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order in the conference room of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, in Salem. Everyone introduced themselves while the attendance roster was circulated.

Attendees

Ron Haverkost
Doug Kollermier
Jim Kusz
Rand Breitbach
Matt Ennis
Peg Munsell
Barbara Belcher
Nic Granum
Bob Garrison
Burke Slater
Kevin VanDyke

Representing

Oregon OSHA
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Combination Departments
OFIA
Career Departments
Oregon OSHA
Oregon OSHA
OVFA/TVFR
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
OSFFA
Oregon Fire District Directors Association

Old Business

Status of current Rule Review: Peggy Munsell gave an overview on rule changes coming up.

Proposed:

- Division 2/Z and 3/Z , Silica PEL and Air Contaminants changes to the Z Tables for accuracy, correction, and uniformity. A public hearing is scheduled for November 28, 2007. The rule will tentatively be finalized in mid-December.
- Division 1 Health care employees (hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers) assault reporting HB 2022.
- Division 1 Time periods for appeal of citation and final judgment, increases the time to file an appeal from 20 to 30 days and extends the period before civil penalty can be recorded as a judgment from 10 to 20 days after the final order. A public hearing is scheduled for October 30, 2007 and finalized tentatively by January 1, 2008.
- Division 1 time period for filing discrimination complaint increases the time to file a retaliation complaint from 30 days to 90 days. Finalized tentatively mid-November 2007.

- Confined space issues in the fire fighters standards, proposes to adopt new Oregon Administrative Rules for the fire fighting industry as it pertains to confined space rescue. The rule was initiated in part as a need to standardize methods for all fire fighters in the state for the rescue of victims from spaces large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work, that has limited or restricted means for entry or exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy. The hearing is scheduled for October 29, 2007. The rule will be finalized tentatively mid-November 2007.
- Division 2/L Fire extinguishers attempts to consolidate, simplify and updated the old rules. The rules were reformatted for ease of reading and plain language. These rules are scheduled to be finalized tentatively mid October 2007.
- Division 2N and 3/O Vehicles This includes a reorganization of the existing OR-OSHA rules on vehicles in Divisions 2, and 3. The changes would convert the rules to plain language. The new requirements are to report inspection findings to the employer, check the employee's driver's license, train new drivers and a requirement to fill flammable containers outside the vehicle.

Recently Adopted:

- Division 2/N a reorganization of the existing OR-OSHA rules on vehicles in Divisions 2 and 3 which converts the rules to plain language. The new requirements are to report inspection findings to the employer, check the employee's driver's license, train new drivers and a requirement to fill flammable containers outside the vehicle. These changes were adopted and are effective September 26, 2007.

Proposed rules coming up

- Division 1 Safety Committees. HB 2222

Live Fire Training:

Ron Haverkost reported for Terry Riley. The fire chiefs will be discussing stratification at the fall conference in November. There are no new updates. The committee is continuing forward

Swift Water Rescue - Jim Kusz:

Jim updated the committee on the development of swift water rescue training. He believes the training will be ready in the spring or fall of next year. He also informed the committee that Nestucca is discussing reinstating the Nestucca Swift Water Rescue team.

Confined Space - Ron Haverkost:

Ron discussed technical rescue. The public hearing is on Monday the 29th and the comment period will be for 2 week.

Bob Garrison notified OR-OSHA that the Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Districts and Special Districts association are all opposed due to a current exemption that they all fall under. The way the proposed rules are written, the exemption would no longer be available. He suggested adding a lead-in sentence that would ensure the exemption would remain in effect after the proposed rulemaking is final. Bob was also aware that there has been contact with Michael Wood on this subject.

Internal Training:

Ron informed the committee that staff from OR-OSHA had attend 4 days of training at the Brooks Training center for internal training. The overall feedback from those that attended was that the training was very useful.

New Business

Bearded Fire Fighters:

Ron discussed the recent federal judge ruling that struck down a requirement that firefighters in the District of Columbia to be clean-shaven pertaining to religious purposes. 1910.134 Respiratory Protection does not allow facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face or interferes with the valve function.

New Interpretations:

Ron H. disbursed two Oregon OSHA letters of interpretation that would clarify some fire fighting rules. The interpretations can be found here:

http://www.orosha.org/interps/2007/fire_apparatus.pdf

<http://www.orosha.org/interps/2007/livefireburn.pdf>

OFIA Symposium – Safety & Survival:

The symposium will be held at 4190 Aumsville Hwy. SE Salem, OR 97317 on January 11-13 2008. You can register online at www.ofia.net

OFCA & OR-OSHA Agreement:

Ron shared with the committee the new collaborative agreement that has been signed between the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and Oregon OSHA.

Uniformity/Open Forum:

Matt Ennis asked for Oregon OSHA's help on providing alternative methods to become a SHARP employer. Currently his department is being compared with other businesses that include office staff. There is no fire service NAICS code.

ACTION ITEM: Ron Haverkost will discuss with the Oregon OSHA Policy Manager.

Matt asked for feedback from other committee members if they use fall protection while perform training. The members all agreed that they do not use fall protection while in training unless using the rope rescue method. Training is conducted as if responding to a fire. During a fire event, fall protection is not used in emergency response because it could very likely create a hazard.

ACTION ITEM: Ron Haverkost will bring this to the Oregon OSHA Policy Group and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Doug wanted to follow-up with a previous concern of Tim Dahl about the back injury trend that is due to lifting patients. Frequently, emergency responders are called to help lift a patient back into bed. Doug asked if there was any way to train the medical community safe patient lifting techniques to help reduce the number of calls for this type of incident. Burke pointed out that the State Fire Marshall requires the facility to be able to evacuate all patients out of nursing care facilities, if they are not trained to lift patients and are relying on the fire departments to lift, they are not in compliant with the State Fire Marshall requirements.

Kevin said that they have started charging service fees to facilities for responding to lift a patient after so many calls per month.

Oregon OSHA is currently developing a lifting guide specifically for the home health care. This guide may be a topic that can be included in the safe patient handling guide.

ACTION ITEM: Ron Haverkost will discuss with Ellis Brasch OR-OSHA's publications research specialist.

Doug also asked the other fire departments how they are reporting exposures to non-specific chemicals. Many of the other agencies are using the short form to gather information on near misses.

Jim reported a recent issue where there was a traffic crash. Oregon State Police would not allow the fire department to shut down the street. Another member of the committee said that Oregon Department of Transportation will not allow anyone to shut down traffic.

The next meeting of the Oregon OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 23rd, 2008 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.

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