

**Oregon OSHA
Fire Service Advisory Committee
October 11, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

John Derr- Portland Fire and Rescue
Robert Farino- DPSST Fire Training
Mark Gregg- Hillsboro Fire
Kevin Larson- OSFFC
Dave Nelson- C.I.S. (City County
Insurance Services)

Jeffery Carlson- Oregon OSHA
Heather Case- Oregon OSHA
Omar Lopez- Oregon OSHA
Renée Stapleton- Oregon OSHA
Cory Stengel- Oregon OSHA Consultation
Trena VanDeHey- Oregon OSHA

Attendees by phone:

Deric Weiss- OFCA/TVFR

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m.

The group introduced themselves

Old Business

The group reviewed and approved the April 12, 2018 and July 12, 2018 meeting minutes.

Membership Updates

Jeff let the group know that he updated the roster for the advisory committee and thanked everyone for participating. He asked the group for suggestions of other members to add and to let him know if there was anyone they thought of.

Rulemaking Updates

Jeff updated the group regarding Oregon OSHA's current and prospective rulemaking. This included the Division 1 cleanup rulemaking, Manganese, Lead, Employer Knowledge and Agriculture Labor Housing.

Regarding Employer Knowledge, Oregon OSHA let the group know the organization would bring a draft to the group at the next meeting. The draft will be presented to an advisory committee meeting in November. This rulemaking will be not a new concept of employer knowledge, but a better articulation of what Oregon OSHA looks at when examining potential violations for employer knowledge.

The lead rulemaking will concern both general industry and construction, and will potentially focus on blood lead levels and improving requirements related to hygiene.

The Agricultural Labor Housing rulemaking is something that will likely happen in the future, but no drafts have been written or advisory committee meetings have currently taken place.

Fire Service Inspection Citations

None discussed.

New Business/Discussion

Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA, Q3/2018

A handout was passed out to the group containing all of the overnight hospitalizations and fatalities specific to firefighting reported to Oregon OSHA from July 2018 through September 2018. There were three new entries for Quarter 3.

The group discussed the different types of accidents and fatalities, trends, and potential ways to prevent or how non-preventable some of these accidents and fatalities could be.

The group discussed an accident in Wasco County that was not on the list, and asked Oregon OSHA about this accident. Oregon OSHA stated that that person did not work for a fire department, but rather worked for a farmer who had asked one of his employees to dig a fire line.

The group also discussed a fatality that was not on this list in which a worker who lived in Washington may have done some work in the state of Oregon, then went back home to Washington and later died of pneumonia.

Renée asked the group if a synopsis of these inspections after they were completed would be helpful as follow up. The group stated that would be helpful and may allow them to get more clear information on Oregon OSHA's findings.

Lessons Learned/Near Misses

The group was asked to share some of their lessons learned/near misses, or any they had heard about that may benefit the group.

One person in the group mentioned that they experienced people going down from overheating in the summer. Usually caused by electrolyte imbalances and exhaustion. The heat exhaustion was taken care of in a timely manner, the people affected went to the OA (?) and received fluids. One example was during a flashover, a firefighter lost consciousness. He had been working particularly hard both before and during the flashover.

Another person reported some heat exhaustion among his group during training. As a result, the fire station in question formalized their rehabilitation policy and revised their procedures for heat stress to including measuring vitals and electrolyte replenishment. These policies and procedures were made more sturdy for training exercises because of these near misses.

Oregon OSHA explained more about their heat stress emphasis program, including the fact that they will be reviewing this program through December and January. Most other industries do not have specific heat stress protocols, so Oregon OSHA saw the need for their heat stress emphasis program. The emphasis program is in place between June 15 and Oct 1st, or anytime where there is a hot process. Inspectors look for potential heat stress hazards during every inspection within this time period.

There were 60 heat stress emphasis inspections in 2017, and over 400 in 2018. This is a newer emphasis program.

Oregon OSHA also stated that in the next few years they may assess the need for specific heat stress rules.

Another person in the group mentioned seeing an increased presence of hydrofluoric acid in cleaners in firefighting bays. This chemical attacks calcium, which makes it very effective for cleaning aluminum, and also can cause long term issues in workers exposed to it. This person also noted that people were not using the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) for the chemical. Something to watch out for is that this chemical can be either bought by the fire station or sometimes brought in by workers themselves. This acid is present in Alumabrite and other similar cleaners that can have different names.

This led to a discussion by the group of the presence of calcium gluconate at shops and in kits.

Roundtable:

The group went around the table and discussed anything that was deemed pertinent to the group. These included:

- Fire service training- Oregon OSHA is moving forward on internal training for Oregon OSHA compliance officers regarding the firefighting industry. Another internal planning meeting was held the morning of this meeting. The training is scheduled for January 15, 16, and 17, 2019. Oregon OSHA asked the group about adding any other committee members to the planning group, and some members expressed interest who were not already involved.
- As a follow-up to a jurisdictional question that was asked last meeting, Trena told the group she had called the Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI), but had not received a response from them. This jurisdictional question involved minor firefighters and apprentice junior firefighter programs. The group concluded that BOLI may likely not have jurisdiction, but that this may involve education to BOLI about what a volunteer firefighter actually does as a part of their duties.
- Discussion of resources available. There are resources on the NIOSH website, which include thousands of reports from free evaluations the group does for employers. These include health hazard evaluations, which include some reports regarding firefighter's exposure to opioids. These NIOSH reports often articulate good, usable solutions. The reports are typically 10-20 pages and focus on going through situations. A link to the database of these evaluations is: <https://www2a.cdc.gov/hhe/search.asp>
- Another resource available is the federal OSHA website, where anyone can put in a NAICS code and pull up violations from that NAICS code on a national basis. Reminded group that state plan states' data are included in this database. That search can be conducted here: <https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/industry.html>
- A person in the group brought up an accident that occurred at a fire station when a window washer fell six stories. The employer called the Portland field office and secured the scene. The crew later stated they felt the process for Oregon OSHA's response did not go as well as it could have. The fire station reviewed with their employees the protocols regarding scene security as well as the process for reporting to Oregon OSHA and the subsequent response, due to the infrequency with which it is needed. The employer suggested that Oregon OSHA could work on their response to live, active scenes and discuss this with staff. This specific employer connected with management at the Portland field office and discussed their concerns. The group went over the Oregon OSHA requirement for the employer to secure the scene.

- This prompted a discussion among the group about when inspections are public record (at what point in the inspection process).
- The group further discussed the lead standard, and talked about the requirement to check for asbestos during learn and burn trainings, and if lead should be a part of that requirement. The group pointed out that lead abatement costs a lot more than asbestos abatement, so this could be prohibitive. Also, the group was reminded that any lead rulemaking done would be done within Division 2, so the firefighting industry would still have to be aware of those rule changes.
- Cory brought up a discussion the group had in July regarding Q&A's for working in the heat, which included questions that could be asked regarding rehabilitation programs in the workplace. Cory stated that he will spearhead coming up with a list of those questions. (See July minutes)
- Jeff stated that he will be scheduling this same room for the quarterly meetings for 2019 soon.

Meeting adjourned 2:03 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, January 10, 2019, 1:00 PM

Where: DPSST Building, 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem, OR 97317