

# **Oregon OSHA Fire Service Advisory Committee January 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

## **Attendees:**

Kurt Chapman- C.I.S. (City County Ins. Svcs)  
John Derr- Portland Fire and Rescue  
Ray Dirling- Grants Pass Fire  
Robert Farino- DPSST Fire Training  
Mark Gregg- Hillsboro Fire  
Jason Jantzi- SDAO  
Jim Kusz- N. Lincoln Fire & Rescue  
Kevin Larson- OSFFC  
Dave Nelson- C.I.S. (City County Ins. Svcs)  
Scott Newfeld- SDAO

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

## **Attendees by phone:**

Dave Phillips- Black Butte Ranch Fire District  
Brian Stewart- Clackamas Fire  
Deric Weiss- OFCA/TVFR

## **Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.**

**The group introduced themselves**

## **Old Business**

**The group reviewed and approved the October 11, 2018 meeting minutes** after two suggested changes:

- Add Jason Jantzi as an attendee at this meeting
- Change mention of an OA in the minutes to the words “received medical attention” on a discussion of overhearing in the ‘lessons learned/near misses’ section.

These changes will be made and then the minutes will be posted on Oregon OSHA’s advisory committee page for Fire Services.

## **Rulemaking Updates**

Jeff updated the group regarding Oregon OSHA’s current and prospective rulemaking. This included, Manganese, Lead, Employer Knowledge, Agriculture Labor Housing, and Crane Operator Certification.

The group discussed the manganese and lead rulemakings. In regards to manganese, Renée stated that manganese will have advisory committee meetings in spring, and plan to propose this year. In regards to lead, the group discussed how this may effect firefighting maintenance activities for exposure. Renée stated she would bring a pre-proposal draft to the next meeting

for the group to review. Jeff agreed to send out the dates of the stakeholder meetings for lead and manganese.

The group also discussed upcoming Agriculture Labor Housing rulemaking, which has just had its first advisory committee meeting and is still in the beginning stages. Renée solicited the group for things that the Division could do better in regards to housing, things observed when responding to this kind of housing. The group stated they would email Renée, but just to start, first responders notice that there are often accessibility issues for engines, DEQ issues, and lead and asbestos issues among housing.

### **New Business/Discussion**

#### **Oregon OSHA's Upcoming Fire Service Training**

Craig Hamelund from Oregon OSHA presented to the group regarding the upcoming fire service training, including a tentative agenda for the three-day training. Craig gave the group a handout of the tentative agenda including who was presenting what subject.

The training will take place Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> through Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, with Tuesday training being held at the Labor and Industries Building (L & I) in Salem, and Wednesday and Thursday training being held at DPSST in Salem.

This training is primarily for compliance and consultation staff at Oregon OSHA to receive health and safety training and information regarding firefighting operations.

Craig thanked the group at this meeting for their help, and committing their time and resources to make this training happen.

The group reviewed the agenda, and suggested supplemental speakers where needed. The group also discussed parking needs at the Labor and Industries Building, and Craig stated that approximately 35 people were expected to attend. Craig added that he has asked the attendees to read 2 NFPA standards, and refresh themselves on Oregon OSHA's respirator, hazardous materials, and bloodborne pathogens rules as a prerequisite for the training.

The group discussed having a fire services representative to help present on the subject of behavioral health and crisis management at the L & I Building after lunch. The group suggested potentially chaplain groups, and will send Craig emails with names. Craig also gathered information regarding who from the fire service industry would be in attendance among groups who were not presenting.

Craig asked people who were presenting to send him their presentations so he could load them all into one place for seamless transitions between presentations. He advised that flash drives should be avoided, but that presenters could also bring their own laptops if they want. Craig also expressed that, if presenters were willing, he would like to keep copies of any presentations to make them available to all Oregon OSHA staff on the intranet for future reference.

Finally, Craig also solicited suggestions from the group regarding accurate videos of a short history of firefighting that he could show at the training.

#### **Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA, December 2018**

A handout was passed out to the group containing all of the overnight hospitalizations and fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA in December 2018. These events were not specific to the fire service industry. There were 12 incidents.

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 also discussed community member's utilization of fire services, and what groups (if any) may have statistics regarding CPR done upon first responder arrival by lay people, and the effectiveness of that action.

The group also discussed the importance of peer support and the role of trauma in the jobs of first responders. A member of the group mentioned an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) specific to fire and police officials, staffed by professionals trained for fire and police issues. This service is new as of the week of this meeting, and is free to firefighters and law enforcement, with discounts on the service given to volunteers and office staff related to the profession. The counselors chosen for this EAP were recommended by staff at various public safety agencies.

The group discussed the culture among firefighters and the historical use of EAP and/or chaplains, and behavioral health groups. The group also discussed their own station's uses of tailgate debriefs after incident response.

### **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.

The group discussed the toxic exposure incident at Intel recently, that resulted in a total of 38 connected people exposed. The group discussed the question of what first responders do when they arrive on scene and may or may not know substances that are potential exposures. Then the group discussed not knowing all the information on a scene, and how this is a good example of the need for increased haz mat training, and potential availability of inventories of community businesses that use hazardous chemicals. The group also discussed the need for trust between fire stations and common players in the community. Some in the group also talked about the need to protect against the hazard, rather than knowing the specific chemical. They may rely more on their hazard identification skills than figuring out the exact substance exposure.

### **Comparison between British and American Injury/Fatality Rates**

Jeff brought to the group an interesting article that he read titled: 'Four Ways to Prevent Firefighter Fatalities and Reduce Injuries' at <https://inpublicsafety.com>

The group also went through a PowerPoint handout that discusses the difference in injuries and fatalities between the United States and England. There was a difference of between 5-7 times more incidents in the US vs overseas firefighters.

The group discussed whether or not equipment differences may be a factor, if philosophical differences play a part, and potential differences between how operational risk management is implemented. The group pointed out that London fire stations will investigate every near miss, and that there is a consistency of training among overseas fire stations. Also, the group

discussed situational awareness training among all firefighters, and following best practices and standards versus rules, which may be the minimum required for compliance.

Another difference the group discussed was that most fire stations in Europe only do firefighting, whereas in the United States fire stations respond to all kinds of hazards, and this makes a difference in exposure to injury.

When discussing operational risk management, the group described the importance of fire pre-planning if possible, and visiting common community places before the need to respond to a hazard.

The group discussed the resources available and not available among paid and volunteer fire stations. This can also make it difficult to get operational risk management standards in all volunteer stations. But the group acknowledged the encouragement of the ISO 13000 for operational risk management.

This led to the group discussing the percentage of operating budgets of fire stations that go to insurance, as an example of the lack of resources for small/rural/volunteer fire stations. The group discussed the difficulty of balancing operating costs with such small budgets. The smallest districts have the smallest budgets, and by far the largest percentage of their budgets go towards insurance premiums.

The group also discussed the education and acknowledgement of near misses among volunteer firefighters.

### **Roundtable:**

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

The group wondered about answers to the child labor question from BOLI, Oregon OSHA reported that they had heard nothing else from BOLI on the subject. Renée also commented that Oregon OSHA will go ahead and determine individually whether or not they have jurisdiction, separate from BOLI in every incident/inspection.

Renée discussed the substation fire in the Dallas area, and how a farmer was cited following the death of one of his employees while that employee was working to dig a fire line. There have been concerns among growers who are hesitant to respond to fires now because they fear they may be liable. Oregon OSHA will be putting out a fact sheet or a hazard alert regarding employees fighting fires. Renée will send a draft to the group for suggestions after it is written. Additionally, Senate Bill 290 has been introduced this session, which will deal with voluntary fighting of wildland fires and liability. It may be described as a good Samaritan bill for wildland firefighting. This bill is sponsored by Senator Hansell and Senator Johnson.

The group also discussed that this committee has done good work in the past, and it may be useful to consider bringing in other people from ancillary industries to join for specific meetings.

There was a question as to the investigation into the window washer who fell from fire station. Renée confirmed it is not a fatality, and the committee asked if they could be apprised of the findings when the investigation was finished. Renée agreed to keep the group informed. The inspection is currently ongoing.

The group discussed the heat stress emphasis program briefly.

**Meeting adjourned 2:58 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:**

When: Thursday, April 11, 2019, 1:00 PM

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