

**Oregon OSHA
Fire Service Advisory Committee
April 11, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Jeffery Carlson- Oregon OSHA
Kurt Chapman- CIS
Ray Dirling- Grants Pass Fire
Jason Jantzi- SDAO
Michael Penunuri- Molalla Fire

Heather Case- Oregon OSHA
John Derr- Portland Fire and Rescue
Michael Heffner- OSFM
Omar Lopez- Oregon OSHA
Renée Stapleton- Oregon OSHA

Attendees by phone:

Justin McWilliams- Clackamas Fire
Brian Stewart- Clackamas Fire
Deric Weiss- OFCA/TVFR

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

The group introduced themselves

Old Business

The group reviewed and approved the January 2019 meeting minutes

These 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 an upcoming proposed rulemaking regarding frontier firefighting. Representative Finley had introduced a bill regarding support and training for small districts with no organized fire stations. There were some problems with the bill, including setting a maximum number of training hours (78). After meetings with Representative Finley and his staff, Representative Finley has agreed to withdraw his bill, and Oregon OSHA has agreed to pursue rulemaking regarding non-structural, non-wildland firefighting. Renée told the group about a fatality in an area near The Dalles, where a farmer was cutting fireline and became engulfed. Those communities are also concerned about protection. There is currently a small workgroup meeting regarding this rulemaking. Their next meeting will be at the end of April. After the small workgroup meetings, any pre-proposal language and rulemaking ideas will be brought to this advisory committee.

Currently there is no scope on the rulemaking, and the group discussed the challenges involved in this rulemaking. Oregon OSHA cannot set standards that are below manufacturer's standards in good faith. Oregon OSHA also will not be doing rulemaking regarding this topic yearly- therefore it would be hard for Oregon OSHA to adopt NFPA standards by reference.

DPSST has offered a lot of support with this rulemaking, which will not be quick, but Renée highlighted the importance of keeping up momentum about it. The group also discussed the positives of using Division 7 sections as a baseline for building off of.

The group asked questions regarding potential scope of this rulemaking and the original intent of Representative Finley's bill. The group also discussed the risk of fire in agricultural settings, and the lack of information on fire services outside of fire stations. The group spoke about the subject that people helping to contain these fires are often running their own separate businesses and the employees are usually doing other jobs, so they may not keep up with fire service information.

The group also discussed the need to come at this rulemaking from a hazards approach instead of an NFPA compliance perspective. On the national level, interest groups have been discussing the direction of just making everyone a fire department. Renée stated she will look into getting old minutes from the national advisory committee to make sure this group does not have to reinvent the wheel. This rulemaking may involve work in Division 2/L but that is not necessarily the plan.

The group discussed how often these members are providing support to these rural groups. The group also highlighted the discrepancies between fire departments, and "fire groups", and the potential harms of interactions and the fact that things can lead to communication issues. The group agreed that this rulemaking should be cautious and slow because lives are at stake with what the Division writes.

New Business/Discussion

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 for the first quarter of 2019. These events were not specific to the fire service industry. There were 18 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 how firefighters assess roof surfaces, how firefighters control hazard scenes (such as crash scenes), and bridge crane rescue and other complex rescues.

Most Cited Rules during Inspections of Fire Service Organizations

In response to committee members' requests, Jeff passed out a handout to the group that included all citations issued to Fire Service Organizations since the end of 2014. These citations were sorted by rule number to highlight frequently cited rules. This handout also includes the variable language of citations, which allows the group to see specific issues that led to the violation. This handout was also sent out electronically so one can expand the variable language to see all of it.

Oregon OSHA representatives also took this time to remind the group about Oregon OSHA's free consultative services and provided information about what consultation is, and what it looks like.

The group discussed the idea that there are lots of SCBA citations.

Upon the group's question, Renée stated that there is no uniform document that includes things that are looked for during inspections, as typically, compliance officers may change or modify a focus as employee interviews progress. She stressed that, in most situations, the interviews will drive the inspection. The group also discussed the difference between a referral and a complaint.

Discussion of what "Reliable and adequate source" of water means

Molalla Fire was reviewing their SOG's, and came across the two-in/two-out rule (they will be rewriting this SOG). Their safety committee, in researching this SOG, came across a letter of interpretation from Oregon OSHA from 2005. In that interpretation, Oregon OSHA policy group stated that one of the stand-by fire fighters could be assigned to apparatus duties as long as the pumper is up and operating properly, "with water flowing from a *reliable and adequate source*." (emphasis added). Molalla Fire's question was: What constitutes a reliable and adequate source for water? Jeff sent the group the letter of interpretation in question, as well as meeting minutes from the November 1, 2004 Fire Services Advisory Committee meeting, where the group also discussed this question.

The group discussed sources of water, and differences in fire scenes, and concluded that the conclusion came to in the 2004 meeting was correct: Reliable and adequate source as determined by the on scene incident commander.

The group also discussed a more current trend of push back against the two-in/two-out rule in general. A study was published recently that shows 90% of rescues were done by crews already inside the structure. Some fire districts are reviewing their policies because of this study. Group members confirmed that this would change operations only, and that fire districts would not be getting rid of the RIT teams all together, and would continue to be in compliance with 2L.

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 accessibility issues facing first responders in the Elkton to Reedsport corridor during the snow storm. This weather and subsequent power outages also led residents and first responders in the area discussing how long is long enough for generator capacity. Elkton was out of power for three weeks. The group discussed the role of emergency planning, and anticipating issues with emergency managers communicating in rural areas.

The group also discussed a non-profit called Team Rubicon. This group includes people trained as tree fellers, and have made themselves a part of emergency management response groups. This group is a standalone 501(c)(3) that makes themselves available in emergencies for clearing roads, sidewalks, etc. The group will also stick around for mop-ups as needed.

Roundtable:

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

Cancer reductions- The group discussed the potential use of PAPRs in place of SCBAs. Others in the group stated they will use lighter bottles in their SCBAs, but that the problem with PAPRs is that there is no "right" cartridge that may cover everything that could be encountered in a situation. Clackamas Fire stated they have both options, due to the potential of strain and fatigue with SCBAs. Another group member stated their fire district had done a carry bag with supply line test and it was not a workable solution.

Face Shields- People in the group have noticed that a number of departments are switching to helmets with goggles, as opposed to full face shields. The group discussed how this could effect face protection, and a potential solution to have full face protection near equipment that requires face protection. In these situations, Oregon OSHA would have to talk about whether or not an exposure was a reasonably foreseeable exposure.

Grants Pass fire shared a new safety incentive program the city of Grants Pass has started. The city had poker chips made, and instructed employees that, when you catch someone doing something safe or promoting safety, to give them a poker chip. Then, poker chips can be exchanged for prizes. The person awarding the poker chip is instructed to write up a short statement of the good thing they saw the person do. Ray gave the group a copy of the accountability statements for these recognition criteria, which will be scanned and attached to these minutes.

Meeting adjourned 2:42 p.m.

Next Meeting:

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

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