

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

Attendees:

Jeffery Carlson- Oregon OSHA
John Derr- Portland Fire and Rescue
Eriks Gabliks- DPSST
Michael Heffner- Fire Marshals Office
Jason Jantzi- SDAO
Omar Lopez- Oregon OSHA
James Oeder- Nestucca Rural Fire Protection
Mark Prince- Hillsboro Fire

Heather Case- Oregon OSHA
Ray Dirling- Grants Pass Fire
Mark Gregg- Hillsboro Battalion Chief
Gavin Horn- Underwriters Laboratories
Jim Kusz- North Lincoln Fire & Rescue
Dave McLaughlin- Oregon OSHA
Julie Olsen- DPSST
Cory Stengel- Oregon OSHA

Attendees by phone:

Kurt Chapman- City Insurance Services

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

The group introduced themselves

Old Business

Rulemaking Updates

Jeff updated the group regarding current rulemaking activities. This includes ongoing Manganese/Welding rulemaking, the Standards Improvement Project Phase IV (SIP IV) rulemaking comment period ends tomorrow, employer knowledge rulemaking and penalty adjustment rulemaking are continuing.

Non-Entry Firefighting

There were no new updates regarding this rulemaking. There will be another work group meeting in a few weeks, and the comments from this committee are currently being compiled.

The group also discussed training (paragraph 9 in the draft). The group discussed potential adding haz mat awareness, refresher training throughout the year, and class number inclusion. The group also discussed the benefits and drawbacks of adding class numbers to wildland fire training rules. The group also discussed doing this rulemaking without minimizing the requirements of wildland firefighting. These rules could provide a good framework and path for knowledgeable people who can't do entry-level firefighting anymore, so it is important to continue rulemaking around the rural non-entry firefighting.

Renée let the group know that the smaller workgroup will meet again before the next FSAC meeting, and she sent out the draft language to the group via email as well as hard copies in the meeting. By the time this advisory committee meets again there could potentially be a pre-proposal draft, but not guaranteed.

The group suggested that Oregon OSHA consult with the NFPA standards counsel- their fire committee is also addressing this issue, and they are parallel to where Oregon OSHA is in the process. Members of the group estimate there are about 100 groups that may be affected by this rulemaking in the state.

Renée also let the group know that the Wheat Growers Association has asked Oregon OSHA to make a fact sheet, which will come out within the next two weeks to 30 days.

New Business/Discussion

Use of OSB/Plywood as a Live Fire Training Fuel

The group discussed a question brought to the Oregon OSHA technical section regarding the use of OSB or Plywood as fuel during live fire training. The NFPA 1403 references “pressure treated wood” as a prohibited fuel source. The question asks whether OSB or plywood is considered “pressure treated wood”.

The group stated that without the use of OSB or plywood, there would be much less opportunity for live fire training. The group also understood the potential concern of exposure to formaldehyde in pressure treated wood.

Jeff stated he had done some research in response to this question. Safety data sheets and research supports that plywood is not pressure treated wood.

Additionally, the International Association of Fire Fighters position statement doesn’t explicitly support it, but they don’t disallow it. The group discussed the balance between the risk of burning versus the training benefits. There was a research paper published regarding exposure during live fire training that Jeff will send to the group from research members.

IDLH Atmosphere During Fire Investigations

Jeff brought a technical question email Oregon OSHA’s technical section received from an employer. This question asked for opinions on using the 2 in 2 out technique during fire investigations. The group discussed the idea that unknown environments should be treated as IDLH, but also the reduced exposure of fire investigators in general compared to fire fighting in a live fire.

Group members also shared their techniques regarding protecting fire investigators. Some require SCBA only for investigation done within 24 hours, with an option for a full face respirator. The group discussed different cartridges and air monitoring. Some group members pointed out that the NFPA 1500 provides guidance on this subject. Some in the group use full structural turnouts for investigation, including hoods, and some use throwaway “bunny suits”. Fire resistant Tyvek has had a good reception among employees as well.

The group later returned to this discussion, and Jeff stated that Oregon OSHA technical section had answered that an investigative scene will likely always be an IDLH environment due to the unknown. However, this does not apply to all fire investigations, based on what you know. Oregon OSHA advised to begin with higher protection (SCBA) until you can downgrade with known information. Some group members discussed the use of IDLH terminology when confronting the unknown, and the desire of OSHA to be more protective.

The group also discussed industrial SCBA versus other types of SCBAs, and the difficulties of keeping employees in SCBA, and the potential increase in musculoskeletal injuries with SCBA use, including slips and falls, abrasions, and heat stress.

Underwater Rescue Procedures (Standby Diver)

Jeff showed the group another question from an Oregon OSHA safety consultant. An employer is making a Standard Operating Guideline regarding water rescue. The consultant wanted to know if it was ok to have a single diver response criteria. This would consist of a rescue diver entering the water without a backup diver immediately available, but would be available within 5 to 10 minutes max.

The group discussed the question as well as procedures followed by fire departments people in the group know. The group also discussed the potential emergency need for a dive team. Some people in the group stated that fire departments may have a team with one actual diver, but multiple people on the team, just not in the water. Some people in the group stated that they look at what NFPA guidance provides for special teams.

The group also discussed if there was a true rescue situation, could professional divers team up with the public safety diver? Also the group brought up how this may be different (or similar) to a confined space entry in an emergency, where there is a team staged outside the confined space. The group also discussed that every incident is dynamic, and that fire departments need to look at it like any other dynamic threat. Also some in the group noted that the sheriff's office may be more involved with any search and rescue operation due to their statutory obligations.

Overnight Hospitalizations & Fatalities reported to Oregon OSHA, Q3 2019

A handout was passed out to the group containing all of the fatalities and overnight hospitalizations reported to Oregon OSHA for the third quarter of 2019. These events were not specific to the fire service industry. There were 16 incidents.

The group discussed the different types of fatalities, trends, and potential ways to prevent or how non-preventable some of these fatalities could be. Among topics, the group discussed heat stress, radios on the scene, heat stroke, white powder calls, and first responder exposure to road hazards.

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.

A group member outlined their outreach with beach fires and their department's work with Oregon State Parks regarding proper beach fire management.

A group member stated that there was a fire at milepost 97 and investigation involved Oregon Department of Forestry. The group discussed potential firefighting injuries.

Roundtable:

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

Expression that more investigations into the protections required of fire investigators was needed. Fire departments may think of having a safety officer assigned to investigations. There can be lots of unknowns with digs.

A group member asked if any agency's represented in the group did code 2 responses. No one on the committee stated that they did.

DPSST will be hosting a first responder excellence class in the Spring of 2020. Will likely be a one day class. DPSST is also hosting a first aid train-the-trainer class. Subscribe to the list serve for notice.

The Northwest Peer Support Network is up and running, providing support for first responders. They will be having their first annual conference next year- this will have multiple tracks for training and refreshers, management, and clinicians.

OSHA had a safety and health conference last month, that included a first responder track. This conference was primarily sponsored by OFCA.

Jim is retiring February 28th

Meeting adjourned 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

When: Thursday, January 9, 2020, 1:00 PM

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