

**Oregon OSHA
Fire Services Advisory Council
September 11, 2024
2:00 – 4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Cory Stengel, Dave McLaughlin, Devon Brown, Forest Chambers, Jason Jantzi, Joe Wieland, Julie Love, Kate Ryan, Matt Kaiser, Matt Laas, Omar Lopez, Ray Dirling, Renee Stapleton, Rocky Hanes, Theodore Bunch, Tim Craig, Tom Bozicevic

Meeting agenda:

- Introductions
- Moment of silence to honor the victims of 9/11
- Approve June 2024 meeting minutes (attachment)
- OR-OSHA strategic planning and other updates
- Safe access (see agenda attachment)
- Emergency vs non-emergency operations (attachment)
- Roundtable (time permitting)

Reminder: Federal OSHA issued a [notice](#) scheduling an informal public hearing on its proposed rule “Emergency Response Standard.” The public hearing will begin on November 12, 2024, at 6:30 a.m., (PDT), and will be held virtually. The US Department of Labor will post information on how to access the [Emergency Response Rulemaking informal hearing](#).

- Introductions were made.
- A moment of silence was held to honor the victims of 9/11.
- June 2024 meeting minutes were approved. [FSAC meeting minutes](#) can be found on the Oregon OSHA website.
- OR-OSHA strategic planning and other updates
 - 5-year federal OSHA Strategic Plan will be turned in in the spring. We have a listening session September 30 to hear suggestions and ideas for improvement. See the [Performance, strategic, and state activity reports](#) for more information.

- Discussion on name change of Fire Services Advisory Committee: This isn't really a committee since we aren't appointed, don't follow specific procedures, and has open membership. It also is not a board. Do members agree to the name change from "Committee" to "Council"?
 - Q. Could this potentially be expanded to include EMS, etc. (as federal OSHA does) and changed in the future if decided?
 - A. In future rulemaking committee meetings, this group would be invited to be included.
 - Member agreed with change to Council. Group agreed with replacing "Committee" with "Council" in name of group.
 - Agriculture labor housing rules have been proposed. Going into public comment period with public hearings in October.
 - Change to HAZCOM rules due to federal OSHA's change in their rules. Expected additional training of 15 minutes for employers to go over information with employees. Rule may go into effect at some point in 2025-2026. This isn't yet proposed.
 - Q. Could OSHA give a training on the 15-minute addition or would that be employer-specific?
 - A. The training may be reviewing specific changes to SDSs and possible changes for employees, for example. The method to train would stay the same, but the additional training would be on specific SDSs that those employers/employees are using (addition of pictograms).
 - There was a rule that came out of federal OSHA regarding "worker representative walkaround." We would be expected to adopt a rule within six months, but we already have a policy that addresses it. We will hold onto the rulemaking until that legislation is clarified.

- Safe access

- When accessing the tender, there is a hose reel on one side and deck gun on the other side. The only access is the ladder at the rear. Firefighters have to walk over the hose for access; they can't go up the sides to access. The two reasons to access are to operate the deck gun and to load the hose, and also if things are stored there.
- The question is, should we do access to the side? There is very thin aluminum on the sides to try to mount steps. On the left side there is a hose bed. The middle has a dedicated path, but some departments may use that space for storage for a hose for example. The width is adjustable.
- Q. Is this any different than any other apparatus in the state?
- A. No, I don't think so.

- Comment. The concern is firefighters trying to make the shortest path. A possible solution is to have a fixed vertical ladder attached to the base of the cabinet (yellow in first picture below), with a flip-down step (green in first picture below).
- A. Yes, if the ladder could be stored out of the way when not in use. It would have to be looked at for safe mounting and distance between steps and to make sure it met NFPA rules. It will operate when driving but is meant to be stationary.
- Comment. There needs to be one more handle so the firefighter isn't having to grab onto the deck gun to climb up.
- There was a member request for a safety bulletin.



- Emergency vs non-emergency operations (attachment)
 - Suggestion for an Oregon OSHA document for fire services to help acknowledge when emergency scene is over and non-emergency scene is back in place. A question that arises is, is this considered an emergency response because it went through 911 or is this determined when firefighters show up and it is a public assistance call that is not an emergency? An example is when prepping a home in the potential path of a wildfire and firefighters go up on roof to remove materials (with regard to fall protection). We don't want to impede when time is of the essence. This is a draft to get thoughts from this council.
 - Member described a scenario: An area is in a Level I evacuation. Firefighters are on roofs removing debris. Is this an emergency situation? Members: They are operating as if this is an emergency evacuation in all levels I, II, III. People have been told to leave. The notice to them says this may be the only notice you receive, and it may go to a level III immediately. The scenario would be looked at as exposure protection. PPE is used for tasks in the workplace that are not dispatched calls. Captains are risk managers and will decide the PPE that is needed when the call comes in. Perhaps the best method is training on risk

assessment. This needs education from OSHA enforcement and should not be treated like the construction industry.

- Group consensus indicated that due to concerns discussed, it may be problematic to develop a publication that comprehensively distinguishes emergency vs non-emergency operations for the purpose of PPE.

- Roundtable
 - A State plan association letter was sent to federal OSHA on emergency response standard public comments (one letter from 29 states with plans).
 - Oregon focused on objections because we believe each state can best assess their needs on a local level, with stakeholders' input. There is an inconsistent approach across the country. To enforce 22 NFPA standards would be challenging. There is an upcoming hearing. In September 2024, they are supposed to have reviewed all public comments on the topic.
 - Member: For NSA air packs there is an updated inspection process. No longer requires daily inspection in all situations.
 - Oregon OSHA: The letter using the wording "regular use" is not very clear.
 - Sign up for the Central Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference September 16 and 17. There are a lot of good speakers.

Next meeting is December 11, 2024. (Cancelled. Next meeting is March 12, 2025)