

Oregon OSHA

Fire Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Attendees

Cory Stengel	Kayla Ballrot	Tom Bozicevic
Jason Jantzi	Omar Lopez	Warren Espinola
Jennifer Stewart	Ray Dirling	Wesley Walker
Joe Wieland	Renee Stapleton	
Kate Ryan	Rich Hosmer	

Meeting agenda

- Introductions
 - Approve March 2026 meeting minutes
 - Lessons learned
 - Oregon OSHA updates
 - Rulemaking: Annual Penalty Bulletin, Lead, Workplace Violence, and HazCom
 - Follow-up: Member provided examples of safety programs for non-emergency wildfire fuel reduction activities
 - Testing drinking water wells at fire stations
 - Fire protection: wildland -vs- structural
 - External Referrals to Oregon OSHA
 - [Two-in/two-out rule exception under Oregon OSHA Interoffice Memorandum, Minimum number of fire fighters to respond to a structural fire](#) (July 14, 1996):
 - “If, upon arriving at the scene, members find an imminent life threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted, with less than four people on the scene, when notification is given by radio to incoming companies that they must provide necessary support and backup upon their arrival.”
 - Fatalities & Accidents Reports
 - Roundtable (time permitting)
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Introductions

- Introductions were conducted.

Approve March 2026 meeting minutes

- March 2026 meeting minutes were approved with some minor edits to wording and suggested addition of definition of "shoulder season." Meeting minutes from previous Fire Services Advisory Council meetings can be found on the Oregon OSHA website at <https://osha.oregon.gov/rules/advisory/ffac/Pages/default.aspx>.

Lessons learned

- Member: In a Career Technical Education (CTE) program, a student was severely burned doing plasma cutting in class. The student was wearing a fuzzy sweater. There was permanent damage to the student and a significant insurance payout. This is something to keep an eye on and be aware of in these school programs that we look at. It is important to look at Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for both students and staff.
- Renee Stapleton: There may be future lessons learned from the implosion at the Longview, Washington pulp and paper mill. They are pulling in many different agencies.

Oregon OSHA updates and rulemaking

Annual Penalty Bulletin

- Oregon OSHA originally followed the federal OSHA penalty adjustment from October to October. Oregon OSHA did temporary rulemaking due to the updated CPI not being available during the federal government shutdown. There was no October 2025 CPI. Federal OSHA did not adjust the CPI for 2026 and they will likely announce that they will not have a penalty adjustment for 2027. There may be differences in Oregon versus federal. But Oregon OSHA's penalty adjustment is required under statute. Now we are going to do permanent rulemaking in July 2026.
- We will be doing rulemaking to add in language to give Oregon OSHA other options if October CPI is ever not available in the future.

Lead

- Rulemaking will affect all industries (general, agriculture, construction). We are looking at September 2026 for this.

Workplace Violence for Healthcare

- This could affect fire services if they are going into hospitals. Oregon OSHA is proposing at the end of June 2026 and will move into comments. The last Rules Advisory Group (RAG) meeting is soon.

Respiratory Protection

- Federal OSHA looking at updating 26 different rules, mostly about respiratory protection. On August 19, federal OSHA is opening public comment.

Hazard Communication

- Oregon OSHA proposed and adopted federal rule by reference and updated rules that had a reference.
- Walking working surfaces has a ladder deadline.
- From chat: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has scheduled a series of informal public hearings on the proposed rules identified below. Informal public hearings will be held virtually beginning Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., and will continue on subsequent weekdays. To testify, provide documentary evidence, or question other witnesses at any of the hearings, individuals must file a [Notice of Intention to Appear \(NOITA\) form](#). There is no need to submit a NOITA if you only intend to watch the hearings. Instructions for viewing the hearings will be posted separately in the coming months. For more information, please visit the [OSHA Deregulatory Rulemaking webpage](#) and the Federal Register Notice.
- There are instructions on how to testify and types of comments that the public hearing is accepting. A member requested that Tom Bozicevic send out this information to this group now since the June meeting minutes will be posted online after August 2026.

Tethered Logging

- This is currently in internal discussion.
- The Forestry Board is not going to go to rulemaking on tethered logging. It is back to Oregon OSHA. We will potentially move forward in early 2027. The final decision will be in 2027 at the earliest. We will look internally at what our options are and talk with stakeholders about next steps, whether that is rulemaking or a different path.

Emergency services and Heat

- Federal OSHA is still working on the fire and emergency response information. Last week was OSHPA, and heat and emergency services were discussed. They launched a new emphasis program relating to heat that somewhat narrowed the focal point.
- A member of this advisory group was successful in receiving the letter that federal OSHA would not provide to Oregon OSHA when we requested it in relationship to some conversations that were happening in the background with some interested parties. We have circulated it on a national level and fire services from other states greatly appreciated this information.

Follow-up: Member provided examples of safety programs for non-emergency wildfire fuel reduction activities

- A member showed pictures and examples of what folks are doing across the state.
- Member: Two organizations in Jackson and Clackamas have pretty robust programs.
- Warren Espinola: The program is available to the public, online. Tom Bozicevic will send a link to this to the group.

- Member: The general answer was there are no rules for this. We need to help people determine what rules apply. They get stuck in 2L.
- Member: There are two sides: the assessment side and the actual work to be done side. They need to look at how to mitigate hazards for the worker after the assessment is done. Two groups have been doing this for years: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service. They should have programs for this. In my area we are just in the prescription mode, and the homeowner hires a contractor after the assessment is done.
- Tom Bozicevic: We should put something together ourselves or direct people to what is available and show that our position is that you know protected properties that we want to perform those who work.
- Member: Folks should be made aware that there are rules around operation of chippers, for example, some guidance that is available and where to look for it.
- Warren Espinola: Bullet points on a fact sheet makes it simpler. I suggest taking out interns, gearing them up, and showing them how the clothing works.
- Member: If we don't do a technical document or publication, and instead do an email article or resource newsletter, how is that viewed by Oregon OSHA enforcement?
- Renee Stapleton: We would use it to inform, but it is not considered policy and it would not have the same weight as policy.
- Tom Bozicevic: Roughly 80% of firefighters are volunteers. What do you do about volunteering for fuel reduction?
- Tom Bozicevic: We want people to think broadly and not be limited to a checklist. We don't want people to think that as long as we follow these rules, then we are fine.
- Member: The next step up from a fact sheet would be requiring a safety program for fuel reduction.
- Tom Bozicevic: That would require rulemaking. It needs to be specific.
- Tom Bozicevic: Considering this discussion with Division 2 vs Division 7 is more complicated: structure vs wildlife. Which rule requires the highest level of protection for the worker?

Testing drinking water wells at fire stations

- Cory Stengel: Should this be tested annually? There is an Oregon group that requires testing and maintaining water quality records. Is this possibly the health department?
- Member: I definitely recommend it but not sure a rule is needed.
- Jennifer Stewart: Oregon Health Authority (OHA) sets the standards. But if OSHA gets a complaint on water quality, then we can test. But it is not something that is likely to be in Oregon OSHA rules.
- Renee Stapleton: The complicating factor is there are several different tiers from OHA that the system is servicing: frequency, duration, and how many service connections there are. We could look to OHA testing requirements for the specific water system.

Fire protection: wildland -vs- structural These reports were shared with the group.

- Cory Stengel: There is a lot of wildland urban interface going on. If the structure catches fire, spot fires, etc. is this now called structure firefighting?
- Member: An example is putting out spot fires that just happened to land on the house.
- Answer: Renee Stapleton: Generally speaking, if starting in a wildfire context and then that was how we landed, but I don't think it is the other way around. Fire services were called out for the roof fire then it was in the gutter and they climbed a ladder. Mindset is core mechanism.
- Member: Crews will be broken down into divisions: wildland and structural crews. It is much more dangerous with somebody in full structural gear trying to fight a wildland fire and suffer from heat exhaustion.

External Referrals to Oregon OSHA

- The question is, what is Oregon OSHA's stance on external referrals to OSHA?
- Answer: Renee Stapleton: One way to start an inspection is a referral inspection. Referrals can be to a state agency from local government, internal referral, and referrals from the media. The referral has to be looked at for safety and health hazards that may need mitigated. Oregon OSHA has right of entry into that inspection.
- In considering a demonstration scenario, there is an allowance for real scenarios and when setting up for a scenario. They must mitigate hazards but for the actual task that they are training on. Employees/crew are exposed while setting up the scenario. Maybe the people from the excavation company had already set it up before the demonstration started. There is an opportunity to make sure those requirements are in place and not expose people to those hazards.
- There was not an enforcement piece planned, but Oregon OSHA did not stop enforcement action from happening.
- Renee Stapleton: We made a commitment to the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association to locations during emergency services. Oregon OSHA staff need specialized training in policies and procedures to enter those emergency services situations.
- Oregon OSHA rules apply to trying to save human lives, not animal lives.

Two-in/two-out rule exception under Oregon OSHA Interoffice Memorandum, Minimum number of fire fighters to respond to a structural fire

- See the full text of the [Oregon OSHA Interoffice Memorandum, Minimum number of fire fighters to respond to a structural fire](#) (July 14, 1996): "If, upon arriving at the scene, members find an imminent life threatening situation where immediate action may prevent the loss of life or serious injury, such action shall be permitted, with less than four people on the

scene, when notification is given by radio to incoming companies that they must provide necessary support and backup upon their arrival.” [Added per 9/9/2026 council meeting minutes approval request, to add additional clarification: The “*imminent life threatening situation*” referred to in the memorandum is only applicable to human life, and not applicable to the life of animals, pets, etc.]

Fatalities & Accidents Reports

- Tom Bozicevic could not tell with certainty that it was a firefighter involved in the event. Let Tom know if members see incidents that were missed on this list or if group would like to talk more about any from the list.

Roundtable

- Firefighter Memorial at DPST is June 16
- Share your ideas for topics at the Central Oregon Conference in September. Fire Marshal Tom Mooney in Redmond is OSHA’s representative for the fire service track at the conference.
- Next meeting is September 9, 2026.