

Talking points:

1. Easy to get into the weeds about how this Federal rule applies to Oregon
  - a. Suffice it to say, "it does affect us"
  - b. Oregon OSHA must be as effective as Federal OSHA
  - c. They would be the best to explain that part
2. The Oregon Fire Service has had a productive relationship with Oregon OSHA since August of 2007
  - a. Partnership between Oregon OSHA and OFCA laid out agreement where the OFCA would focus it's attention on the health and safety of firefighters by:
    - i. Creating programs to address wellness, vehicle safety, and strains and sprains.
    - ii. Assist in training Oregon OSHA staff to understand the job functions of firefighters.
  - b. Oregon OSHA would focus its efforts on changing its approach to the inspection process by:
    - i. Enhancing the Fire Service Advisory committee with additional staff resources
    - ii. Participating in researching health and safety issues for firefighters.
  - c. Jointly the OFCA and Oregon OSHA agreed to regularly discuss issues that affect firefighters
  - d. The partnership continues to this day and has improved significantly over the past few years under the leadership of Renee Stapleton.
3. OFCA's short list of concerns: It goes without saying that all the concepts in this rule are solid risk management concepts, however these come with a cost. A cost that in some cases is too high to bear and would cause the closures of entire organizations.
  - a. Backdrop
    - i. There are significant budget concerns for all agencies
      1. Out of the 257 Rural Fire Protection Districts, 144 districts (56%) have an annual operating budget of less than \$500,000 and 50 districts (19.5%) have an annual budget under \$100,000. Cities are a whole other budget animal.
      2. Funding is constitutionally capped and cannot be increased without a majority vote
      3. Currently Special Districts have been excluded from many of the federal grant programs due to a lack of federal definition of a special district.
    - ii. There are significant challenges with staffing

b. Federal OSHA Items of concern

i. Community Assessment

1. Must identify all properties that have hazardous environments (HAZMAT, Reportable Quantities), vacant properties that could be hazardous, hazardous natural features
  - a. Eugene has # of potential properties identified
  - b. Jackson County Fire District #3 has 27,000 potential properties
  - c. Clackamas County
  - d. Smaller agencies with volunteer staff, How?
2. No database of these items,
  - a. who reports these properties
  - b. constitutional questions about entering into the property to assess
3. Must be continuously updated, minimum once a year
4. Square miles of land, largest land mass for fire district is 883 sq. miles. (250 sq miles smaller than the entire state of Rhode Island)
5. Cost is astronomical

ii. Medical Physical and Mental Health

1. This is where we strive to attain but budgets are limited
2. NFPA 1582 Medical physical
  - a. \$800 per person
  - b. Limited number of providers in Oregon who can do these
3. Behavioral health and wellness
  - a. Cost \$250 to \$350 per person per year for program
  - b. Clinician counseling is \$125 to \$250 an hour
  - c. Many areas of the state do not have adequate counselors
4. Fitness for duty testing
  - a. Volunteer shortages would be exacerbated
  - b. Could create ADA accommodation issues

iii. Vehicle Preparedness

1. Uses an NFPA standard that requires certified Emergency Vehicle Technicians to perform inspections, maintenance, and testing

- a. Severe lack of certified technicians in Oregon
    - b. Volunteer organizations likely don't have the ability to certify their staff
    - c. Inspections required within 24 hours of a call or at least weekly
  2. Applies to personal vehicles used to respond from home
    - a. Volunteer personal vehicles inspected, maintained, and tested like all other fire apparatus
  3. This NFPA links to another NFPA that has mandatory retirement criteria for fire apparatus
    - a. Fire apparatus is \$800,000 and takes more than 2 years to be delivered
- iv. When a local fire agency is unable to comply with these standards. It is possible that Oregon OSHA will be required to stop them from working.
  1. No fire protection means no fire insurance
  2. No fire protection means no medical assistance, including for workplaces that OSHA regulates
  3. Taxpayers would need to fund these new mandates and there is no federal funding available
4. Oregon OSHA is at the table with the OFCA, OSFFC to find a solution to this problem
  - a. Regular communication with OFCA, OSFFC, OSHA, OSFM, SDAO, and CIS
  - b. Associations are engaging with Congressional Reps to help them understand.
5. Oregon is big and diverse and a one size fits all federal standard won't work