



Compliance Made Simple Presents:

Take 10... Effective Safety Committee Meetings in about 10 Slides

Topic of the month:

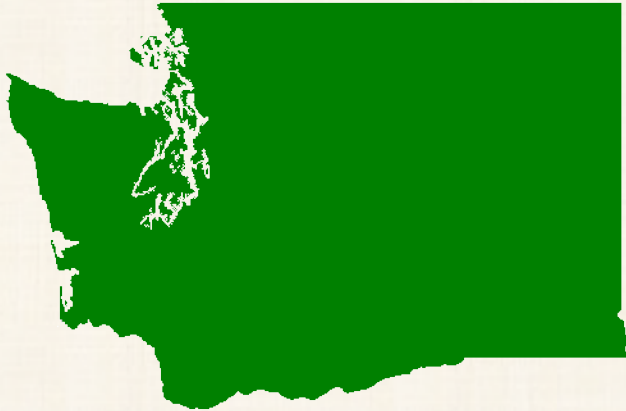
Protecting Your Yard
From Slip, Trip, & Fall Hazards



First Things First:

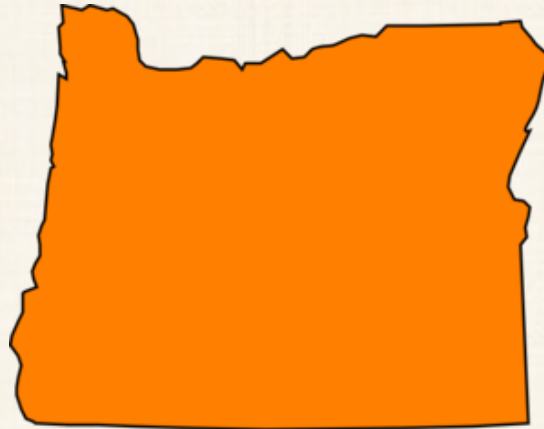
Document Your Meeting Per Your States Requirements

Washington



Meeting
documentation - W

Oregon



Meeting
documentation - O

Montana



Meeting
documentation - M

Alaska & Idaho: There are currently no federal and/or state-specific requirements for safety committees in these states.

Why Protecting Your Yard From Slip, Trip and Fall Hazards Matters...

- While **40%** of all construction fatalities are the result of a fall, they certainly aren't exclusive to just construction sites;
- Slips, trips, and falls constitute the vast majority of general industry accidents;
- Resulting in **15%** of all accidental deaths;
- **2nd** only to motor vehicles as the leading a cause of workplace fatalities; and
- More than **17%** of all disabling occupational injuries result from falls
- The services, wholesale, and retail trade industries together account for over **60%** of injuries that result from same level falls.
- Slips, trip and fall injuries cost employers approximately **\$40,000** per incident.

General Duties of Employers*:

To prevent employees from being injured from falls, employers ***must***:

- Guard every floor hole into which a worker can accidentally walk (using a railing and toe-board or a floor hole cover).
- Provide a guard rail and toe-board around every elevated open sided platform, floor or runway.
- Regardless of height, if a worker can fall into or onto dangerous machines or equipment employers must provide guardrails and toe-boards to prevent workers from falling and getting injured.
- Other means of fall protection that may be required on certain jobs include safety harness and line, safety nets, stair railings and hand rails.

OSHA ***requires*** employers to:

- Provide working conditions that are free of known dangers.
- Keep floors in work areas in a clean and, so far as possible, a dry condition.
- Select and provide required personal protective equipment at no cost to workers.
- Train workers about job hazards in a language that they can understand.

* It is important to be familiar with state specific rules which may differ from Federal OSHA as long as that as “at least” as restrictive as federal guidelines.

Common Causes of Slips in a Lumberyard

- Water
- Mud
- Grease
- Oil
- Forklift Hydraulic Fluid
- Sawdust
- Metal Bands
- Lumber Wraps
- Sloped walking surfaces
- Loose, unanchored rugs or mats
- Wet, muddy or greasy shoes
- Ramps & gang planks without skid- or slip-resistant surfaces
- Employee inattention



★ Committee Discussion: Do we have any of these that need to be addressed?

★ What current processes do we have to find, report, and fix these hazards?

Common Causes of Trips in a Lumberyard

- Forklift tines
- Inventory
- Debris, accumulated waste materials
 - Especially during the busiest months
- Uneven floor surfaces in warehouses and yard
- Potholes
- Uncovered hoses, cables, wires or extension cords across aisles or walkways
- Clutter, obstacles in aisles, walkway & work areas
- Changes in elevation or levels (Unmarked steps or ramps)
- Missing or uneven floor tiles & bricks
- Non-uniform steps (different run and rises)
- Trailing cables, pallets, tools in gangways
- Objects protruding from walking surface



★ Committee Discussion: Do we have any of these that need to be addressed?

★ What current processes do we have to find, report, and fix these hazards?


Conditions That Increase the Likelihood of Slips and Trips

Do we have any of these? Can these conditions be fixed or reduced, and how? Who is responsible to fix them, and by when?

- Poor lighting
- Glare
- Shadows
- Bulky PPE (improper fit)
- Fog or misty conditions
- Poor housekeeping
- Improper cleaning methods & products
- Inadequate or missing signage
- Any others?



Don't forget there is a human factor as well. Employee inattention, stress, medication, eyesight, physical condition, etc. can all play a role and warrant a discussion on how the company can help reduce these risk factors. However, getting to the root cause(s) of an accident, rather than defaulting to blaming the human element is an important part of preventing future incidents.

 Accountability (i.e. someone assigned to a task to address a safety concern) is by many estimates the #1 factor in determining the success and viability of a safety committee. Otherwise its just a discussion, and your employees see it as the same, lessening your ability to develop and maintain a safety culture.

Common Causes of Falls in a Lumberyard

- Floor Openings
- Open-Sided Floors
 - Poor and/or missing guardrails
- Lifting employees on forks.
 - Note: this is also a major safety violation, subject to citations.
- Improper use of ladders
- Climbing on inventory
- While loading trucks
- Any others at our business?



- ★ Committee Discussion: Do we have any of these that need to be addressed?
- ★ What current processes do we have to find, report, and fix these hazards?

Note: Generally falls are classified into two types Same Level, and Lower Level. Eliminating both is important but may require different measures to eliminate and/or reduce the risk of both.

- Same Level: Fall to same walking or working surface, or fall into or against objects above same surface
- Lower Level: Fall to level below walking or working surface

A graphic of a spotlight with a yellow beam shining down on the title.

Safety Hazard Spotlight: Missing Guardrails

- The Rule: Any open sided floors over **4 feet** require a guardrail. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- Applied to our industry: Most lumberyards have an elevated loft for storing inventory similar to the picture on the right.
- Problem: Review of industry practices has found that while removable railings may exist, they are either poorly constructed or commonly missing altogether. Not only will this result in a fine from OSHA or your state agency, it is a major safety hazard.
- Review: Do we have one of these areas, and if so how can we ensure strict compliance with the railing requirement?



Resources:

[OSHA E-Tool: Walking/Working Surfaces](#)

[OSHA Fall Protection: General Industry](#)

[WA LNI Fall Protection Guide](#)

[WA LNI Slip, Trip, & Fall Safety Guide \(Same Elevations\)](#)

[Slip, Trip, & Fall Safety Training Video \(4:05\)](#)