

2023 Safety Committee Report

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Committee Structure & Responsibility

The Safety Committee is responsible for increasing the general safety of our work operations. The committee researches, implements, and communicates evolving laws and recommendations from government agencies. The committee does so through monthly trainings, providing educational materials, implementing safety protocols, researching best practices, and purchasing safety supplies and equipment. The overall goal of the safety committee is to increase workers' safety, prevent injuries and illness in the workplace, and provide employees the education and training they need to be the healthiest version of themselves. Employee safety is not achieved through a single policy or workplace meeting, it is achieved through a strong company culture of safety. The safety committee is a means where all employees can go to express safety concerns, acquire information, and make suggestions to help improve workplace safety. The safety committee is composed of three to five employees who meet quarterly to review and discuss safety standards, safety concerns, incident and injury reports, and areas in need of improvement.

2023 Accomplishments

- **Certified employees in First Aid/CPR/AED training.** We hosted the American Red Cross to train and certify 15 field staff in First Aid/CPR/AED.
- **Implemented Oregon OSHA's rules on protection from wildfire smoke.**
 - Communicated rules to employees through an all-company training.
 - Trained employees to detect hazardous air quality and signs of exposure.
 - Researched and purchased PPE to protect employees from smoke hazards and delivered training on proper use and maintenance.
 - Provided proper smoke PPE to employees free of cost.
- **Completed a White Water Training Course through Alder Creek.**
 - Educated employees on basic hydrology and whitewater anatomy.
 - Reviewed how body, boat and blade works together.
 - Learned several stroke techniques such as sweep and draw.
 - Learned about bow rescues and proactive and reactive bracing.
- **Held Monthly Safety Meetings on a variety of topics including:**
 - Environmental Hazards
 - Planting Ergonomics
 - Hypothermia risks, symptoms and treatment
 - Fire Safety
 - Brushcutter use
- **Held Specialized Trainings for Chainsaw and Herbicide use.**
 - Trained employees, with little to no experience in chainsaw use, on the proper techniques of chainsaw use and tree felling.



- Trained employees, with little to no experience in herbicide use, on the proper methods and best practices of herbicide application, storage, and public safety.
- **Workplace injuries were reduced in 2023 from the previous year.**

2024 Goals

- **Continue to incorporate employee feedback on existing safety policies.** Employees who are in the field each day, following our established safety policies provide the greatest insight to policy efficacy. We will continue to ask for and incorporate employee feedback on safety policies.
- **Reduce workplace injuries in 2024.** As we continue to grow, continue the annual reduction of workplace injuries which has occurred the past three years. Education events, trainings, and safety policies are conducted to reduce and eventually eliminate injuries at the workplace. A goal for the 2024 calendar year is to reduce workplace injuries from 2023.
- **Increase hours allocated to our internal training program.** Started in 2021, we hope to further formalize our employee training program. By teaching employees how to properly and safely cut, apply herbicide, plant, and conduct manual labor we hope to reduce the change of injury, while increasing the quality of our work product. We will be allocating more hours to the development and implementation of our training program.
- **Add a fire suppression training.** Conduct a training for crews to use our fire suppression equipment, while also providing information for Forest Service Fire Levels and associated fire restrictions.