

## Sanitation raises issues at construction sites

Not long ago sanitation was an agenda item at Oregon OSHA's monthly Construction Advisory Committee meetings. At issue was OAR 437-003-0020(1), which requires employers to provide flush toilets and washing facilities on construction projects that have a minimum estimated cost of \$1 million or more. The rule doesn't define a "project," and that leaves some contractors wondering when the \$1 million trigger kicks in. Does a project mean one building or an entire complex? Perhaps the best advice is this: If a general contractor builds just one unit, then that one unit is a project. If the contractor builds more than one unit — a

group of homes or an entire subdivision, for example — then all the units are one project.

It's worth noting who compliance officers are citing for violating OAR 437-003-0020(1). During the past six years — 2000-2005 — compliance officers cited 437-003-0020(1) 39 times. Most frequently cited were general contractors who did construction work on industrial and nonresidential buildings; most had less than 50 employees. No residential contractors were cited, and only one contractor was cited twice. The average penalty was about \$200. The violation history suggests that 437-003-0020(1) is not

an issue for residential contractors but rather one for medium-sized general contractors whose work includes industrial buildings and warehouses.

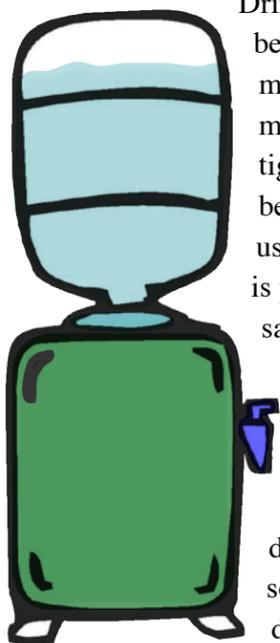
This is also a good time to review Oregon OSHA's requirements for sanitary facilities at construction sites and — a safe practice for all of us — proper hand-washing hygiene.



## Oregon OSHA's requirements for sanitary facilities at construction sites

### Potable water

An adequate supply of drinking water must be available at the site.



Drinking water containers must be constructed of materials that maintain the water quality. They must have a tap and be kept tightly covered. Water cannot be dipped from containers, and use of a common drinking cup is prohibited. There must be a sanitary container for unused single cups and a receptacle for disposing of used cups. Containers must be cleaned regularly and refilled at least daily. Clearly mark containers so that they are used only for drinking water.

### Nonpotable water

Nonpotable water outlets (for industrial use or firefighting) must have signs that clearly indicate the water is not to be used for drinking, washing, or cooking. There can be no connection between nonpotable and potable water systems.

### Toilets

(The following requirements do not apply to mobile crews that have readily available transportation to nearby toilet facilities.)

*Toilets and urinals must be provided for employees as follows:*

Number of employees	Number of toilets and urinals
Up to 20	1 toilet
Between 20 and 200	1 toilet and 1 urinal per 40 employees
200 or more	1 toilet and 1 urinal per 50 employees

*Sites that do not have sanitary sewers must have one of the following unless prohibited by local codes:*

- Privies that do not contaminate ground or surface water
- Chemical toilets
- Recirculating toilets
- Combustion toilets

Construction projects that have an estimated cost of \$1 million or more must have flush toilets and washing facilities that include wash basins, warm water, and soap.

Hand-washing facilities must also be available at any site where employees are exposed to hazardous substances that can damage skin or be absorbed through the skin.

Toilets and facilities must be kept clean, sanitary, and well maintained.

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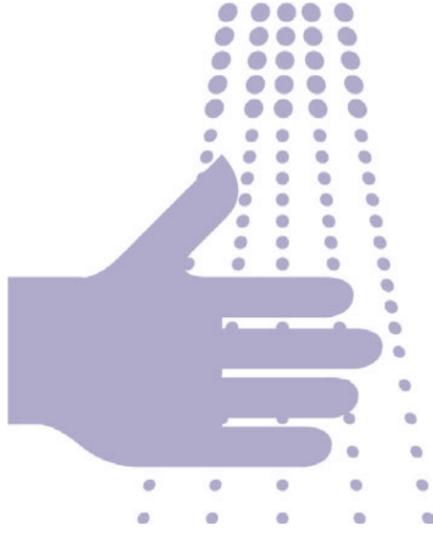
## Don't forget to wash your hands!

Source: Mayo Clinic, [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)

Despite the proven health benefits of hand washing, many people don't do it — even after using the bathroom. Infectious diseases commonly spread through hand-to-hand contact include the common cold, flu, and gastrointestinal disorders.

Inadequate hand hygiene also contributes to food-related illnesses, such as salmonella and E. coli infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as 76 million Americans contract a food-borne illness each year.

Avoid handling irritating substances that cause an allergic or inflammatory reactions such as acids, solvents, or cement unless you're using protective gloves or barrier creams. And wash your hands thoroughly after handling them.



## Suggestions for hand-washing facilities

- Keep wash water between 70 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Provide individual hand towels from a sanitary dispenser and a receptacle for disposing of used towels.
- Provide hand soap and an industrial hand cleaner for removing paint, herbicides, insecticides, or other contaminants.
- Prohibit use of gasoline or solvents for hand washing.
- Keep the floors of facilities dry to prevent slips or falls.

## Washing with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers — which don't require water — are an excellent alternative to hand washing, particularly when soap and water aren't available. They're actually more effective than soap and water in killing bacteria and viruses that cause disease. Commercially prepared hand sanitizers contain ingredients that help prevent skin dryness. Using these products can result in less skin dryness and irritation than hand washing.

Not all hand sanitizers are created equal, though. Some "waterless" hand sanitizers don't contain alcohol. Use only the alcohol-based products.

# Oregon OSHA's 502 Committee: mission accomplished

After two and a half years of regular meetings and hard work, Oregon OSHA's 502 Committee has decided to choose retirement.

"We accomplished a lot, including publishing three popular fall-protection guides for the construction industry. And we had a good time too," said Bob Harris of The Home Builders Association who hosted the committee's monthly meetings.

The 502 Committee was the brainchild of Oregon OSHA's Rocky Shampang and Bob Bryant who wanted to bring together Oregon OSHA staff and construction contractors to discuss fall-protection options for workers whose jobs make it difficult to protect them from falls — jobs such as setting trusses, sheathing and decking, and constructing exterior walls. The name "502 Committee" comes from Oregon OSHA's Subdivision 3M fall-protection rule, OAR 1926.502, "Fall protection systems, criteria, and practices." The committee's fall-protection guides include, "Safe practices for setting and bracing wood trusses and rafters," "Safe practices for setting floor joists, sheathing/ decking, and constructing exterior walls," and "Fall protection options for specialty contractors," available on Oregon OSHA's Web site. Thanks to everyone who participated.

## 502 Committee participants

- Andy Haymart, *T. Gerding Construction*
- Bob Harris, *The Home Builders Association*
- Bruce Phillips, *OR-OSHA*
- Bryon Parrish, *Oswego Drywall*
- Corey Hancock, *Dalke Construction*
- Dale Matlock, *OR-OSHA*
- Dan Freeburg, *Cherry City Electric*
- Darand Davies, *Dallas Glass*
- Dave Kaiser, *National Electrical Contractors Association*
- David W. Hughes, *Oregon Truss*
- Doug Plemons, *Contractors Insurance Services*
- Gale Roberts, *Gale M. Roberts Construction Inc.*
- George Vorhauer, *OR-OSHA*
- Georgi Cam, *G-Cam LTD*
- Joe Miller, *Associated General Contractors*
- Kim Lucy, *Kimco Construction*
- Marilyn Schuster, *OR-OSHA*
- Mike Benson, *Seabold Construction*
- Mike Mitchell, *OR-OSHA*
- Paul Allen, *Breeden Brothers Construction*
- Peggy Munsell, *OR-OSHA*



Rocky Shampang, right, of Oregon OSHA, presents Bob Harris (The Home Builders Association) with a certificate of appreciation for hosting Oregon OSHA's 502 Committee.

- Rocky Shampang, *OR-OSHA*
- Ron Haverkost, *OR-OSHA*
- Russell Nicolai, *Roofer Local 49*
- Sam Scheuble, *Timberland Inc.*
- Scott Collins, *D&S Performance and Offroad*
- Stan Trytko, *Wood Mechanix*
- Steve Hollis, *McKenzie Scaffolding*
- Tim Marcum, *OR-OSHA*
- Troy Goertel, *Tall Pine Contractors Inc.*

# Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded for 2006

Four Oregon students received Workers' Memorial Scholarship awards presented by the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) for the 2006-2007 academic year.

## The award recipients are:

- **Jillian Becker of Molalla.** Becker's father died in October 2003 as the result of overexposure to toxic substances during thermal spray welding. She graduated from Molalla Union High School in 2003 and attended Clackamas Community College. Becker attends Albertson College in Caldwell, Idaho, as a history major, and is pursuing a career in teaching. (\$2,750 award)
- **Molly Foster of Portland.** Foster was 5 years old when her mother died in a 1994 workplace homicide at Portland's Belmont Inn. She is a 2006 graduate of Benson High School. Foster will be attending Portland State University in the fall, where she intends to double-major in pre-med biology and psychology. (\$1,000 award)
- **Annette (Maready) Smith of Eugene.** Smith's father died in a logging accident in 1985 when she was 3 months old. She is a 2003 graduate of North Eugene

High School. Smith attends the University of Oregon as a philosophy major with plans to enter the University of Oregon Law School. (\$2,750 award)

- **Caroline Suiter of Eugene.** Suiter's father perished in a work-related plane crash in 1995, when she was 17 years old. The 1997 South Eugene High School graduate obtained her bachelor of arts degree at the University of Oregon, and she is currently seeking a master's degree in psychology at the University of Oregon. (\$500 award)

Award recommendations are made by Oregon OSHA's Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, an advisory group with members from business, organized labor, and government. Oregon OSHA presents the awards annually to assist in the post-secondary education of spouses or children of permanently disabled or fatally injured workers. Applicants must be Oregon residents receiving fatality benefits, a dependent or spouse of a fatally injured worker, or the dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has incurred a permanent total disability and whose claim



(L-R): Caroline Suiter, Annette Smith, and Jillian Becker. Not Pictured : Molly Foster

for workers' compensation benefits has been accepted.

The Workers' Memorial Scholarship is open to any high school graduate, graduating high school senior, GED recipient, or current college undergraduate or graduate student who is a dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has been fatally injured or permanently disabled while on the job. The awards are funded by interest earned on the Workers Benefit Fund.

The 1991 Legislature established the Workers' Memorial Scholarship at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO, with support from Associated Oregon Industries.

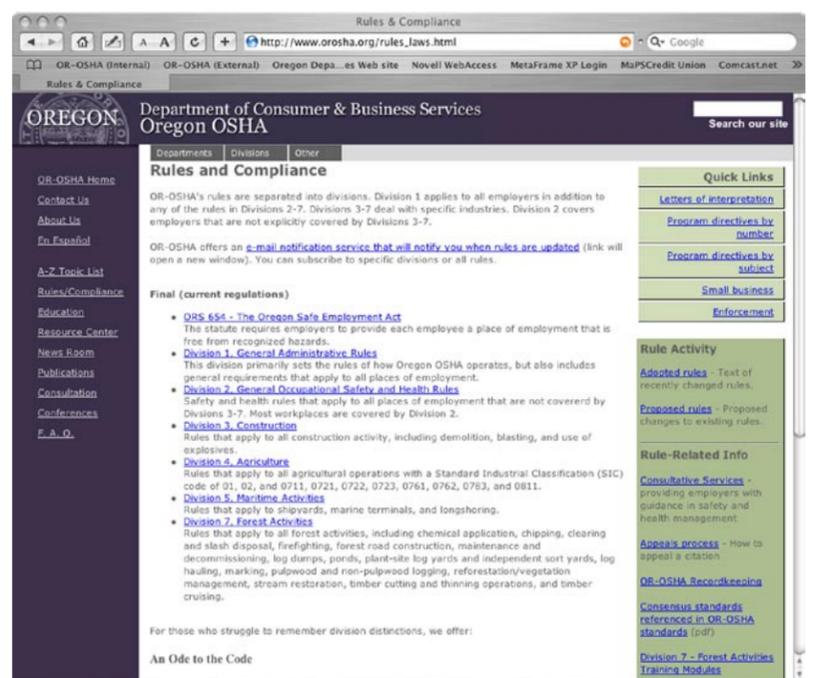
## Changes to OR-OSHA Web site help users

Oregon OSHA has improved its Web site to make it easier for customers to get the information they need. The changes are subtle, □

real improvements to site navigation and overall user convenience.

### Some of the changed features:

- **Quick links:** Many pages now feature, on the top right side, quick links to related topics.
- **Improved navigation links:** The "navigation bar" on the left side of every page has fewer and better links to allow users to get to the most popular pages quickly.
- **FAQs:** New frequently asked questions (FAQs) pages answer common queries about OR-OSHA's services.
- **Fatality reports and statistics:** The fatality reports and statistics page includes up-to-date information on workplace fatalities and serious accidents in Oregon. Included are links to illustrated accident and fatality reports and a variety of statistical and report information.
- **Hazard alert movies:** New animated, narrated slide shows show how individual accidents happen and how they can be prevented.
- **A-Z topics:** The site now features a comprehensive A-Z index of safety and health topics; each topic includes all of Oregon OSHA's information on that topic.
- **Improved contact information:** Now there's a single page with e-mail addresses and phone numbers for technical information, appeals, education, enforcement, news media contact, conferences, consultations, and partnership programs.



(Screen shot of a page showing most of the featured changes)

To see the changes, visit [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org) and click around.



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For general information, technical answers, or information about Oregon OSHA services, please call (503) 378-3272 or toll-free within Oregon, (800) 922-2689.

## By the numbers: Oregon construction employment during July 1990-2006



For a color version of **Construction Depot** and related occupational safety and health information, visit the **OR-OSHA** Web site, [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org).

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**In this issue:** ■ **Sanitation raises issues at construction sites.** OAR 437-003-0020(1) leaves some contractors wondering when the \$1 million trigger kicks in. ■ **Oregon OSHA's 502 Committee: mission accomplished.** After two and a half years, Oregon OSHA's 502 Committee has decided to choose retirement. ■ **Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded for 2006.** Four Oregon students received Workers' Memorial Scholarship awards for the 2006-2007 academic year. ■ **Changes to OR-OSHA Web site help users.** Oregon OSHA upgrades its Web site. ■ **Workplace safety and health efforts to be recognized at GOSH 2007.** Nominations are being accepted for awards to be presented at the conference.

# Workplace safety and health efforts to be recognized at GOSH 2007

People and businesses that make extra efforts to promote workplace safety will get special recognition at the Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) Conference in March 2007. Nominations are being accepted for awards to be presented at the conference.

Awards will be presented to employers, safety committees, associations, and individuals. Private-sector and public-sector employers are eligible.

Awards will be given for safety committees and employers in categories based on the number of employees: 30 or fewer; 31 to 99; 100 to 299; 300 to 999; and 1,000 or more.

(Seasonal employers and temporary agencies may average the number of employees.) Association awards will be divided into categories of those with dedicated loss-control staff resources and those without. Individual awards are in the categories of health care professional, individual, industrial hygienist, labor representative, safety professional, and special-project work team.

Award nomination forms are available on the Oregon OSHA Conferences Web page, [www.orosha.org/conferences](http://www.orosha.org/conferences), or on the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Columbia-Willamette Chapter site, [www.assecwc.org](http://www.assecwc.org).

**Nominations must be received by Oct. 20, 2006.** If you have questions about nominations, please contact Karen Blythe, (503) 665-1149. Conference and nomination information also is available from the Oregon OSHA Conference Section, (503) 378-3272; toll-free, (888) 292-5247 (select option 1); e-mail, [oregon.GOSH@state.or.us](mailto:oregon.GOSH@state.or.us).

The GOSH Conference, presented every other year, is the Pacific Northwest's largest occupational safety and health event. GOSH 2007 will feature more than 30 full-day workshops and 80 single-topic classes during the four-day conference.