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***Bonneville Dam
renovation focuses
on safety***

www.orosha.org

Administrator's Message

Oregon OSHA welcomes Michael Wood as new administrator

Michael Wood began work as administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) of the Department of Consumer and Business Services on September 1, following a competitive recruitment to appoint a successor to Peter DeLuca, who retired from a long public service career on June 30.

"Oregon OSHA is a crucial component of our state's successful workplace safety partnership between industry, labor, and government," DCBS Director Cory Streisinger said. "Michael knows the importance of this partnership and has the experience, policy expertise, and commitment to maintain and expand it. We're very pleased to have him on board."

Wood was the acting assistant director for industrial safety and health in Washington state beginning in January 2005. In that position he was responsible for administering the Washing-

ton Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). For more than nine years Wood was a WISHA senior program manager responsible for the technical content and interpretation of all WISHA policies and standards. Wood also provided direction to regional enforcement and consultation staff in the appropriate application of WISHA requirements. In 2004, Wood spent four months as the acting program manager of the Washington Department of Labor and Industries' self-insurance program for workers' compensation.

"Oregon has one of the best occupational safety and health plans in the country," Wood said. "It's a good, solid program with a history of working effectively with workers and employers, and I'm looking forward to joining that effort."

"Peter DeLuca did an outstanding job during his tenure as administrator," Streisinger said. "Under his leadership the division's relationships with its partners improved significantly and in-



Michael Wood

jury and illness rates declined steadily, as did workers' compensation costs. Michael is taking on a program well-positioned for continued success."

Wood worked for the State of Washington for 21 years, including three years as a staff member for the Washington State Legislature and 18 years with the Department of Labor and Industries. A certified safety professional, Wood has a B.A. degree from Spokane's Gonzaga University.

RESOURCE

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If you have questions about the information in Resource, please call (503) 947-7428.

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

cover photo: Bonneville Dam by Kevin Weeks

Oregon OSHA tests disaster response skills

Members of the Oregon OSHA Safety and Technical Assistance Resource Team (START) were among 40 public safety agencies and nonprofit groups that took part in the Operation Cooperation disaster exercise in Salem on October 7th. Oregon OSHA personnel served as site safety officers, monitored air quality for public safety responders, and served in the State Incident Command center during the day-long exercise

“It is vital that emergency planners understand Oregon OSHA’s role during an emergency,” said Penny Wolf-McCormick, Oregon OSHA Portland health enforcement manager. “We are not a hazardous materials team, we are not a rescue team, we are a technical resource to maintain the safety of public safety responders while they perform their work.”

The exercise tested the readiness of local responders in a simulated bus explosion on the Capitol Mall, and the capability of first receivers at Salem Hospital



Emergency Planning for Business

Emergency planning may not prevent emergencies, but it can protect lives, equipment, and property. Oregon OSHA requires most employers to have emergency plans. Companies that have more than 10 employees must have written plans. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees don’t have to put their plans in writing, but they must ensure that their employees know what procedures to follow to protect themselves in an emergency.

Winter in Oregon brings a higher risk of weather-related emergencies, including ice storms, power outages and a higher likelihood of lowland floods. Employers that plan ahead to keep workers safe in emergencies are also employers that are better equipped to survive a natural disaster and continue operations.

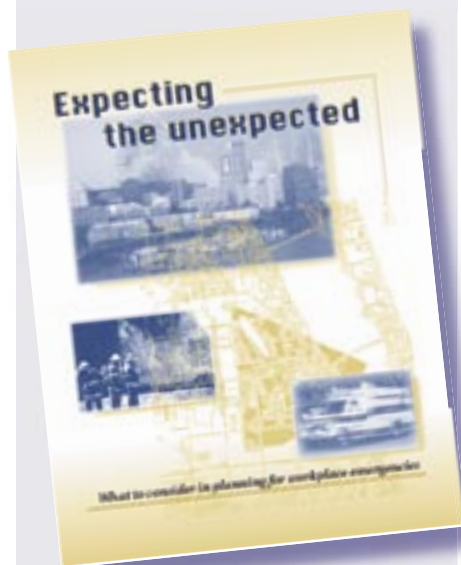
Follow these tips to make sure your employees stay safe during emergencies, including workplace incidents and winter weather events:

- Include emergency preparedness information in newsletters and all-staff emails, on bulletin boards, and as part of other communication tools. Communication is vital before, during, and after an emergency.
- Consider setting up a telephone-calling tree, a password-protected page on the company Web site, an alert message sent to home e-mail accounts, or an answer-only voice-mail recording to communicate with employees in an emergency.
- Provide workers with wallet cards detailing instructions, including phone numbers and Web sites, for getting company information during an emergency.
- Establish a process for evacuating your facility safely, if appropriate, and coordinate a safe area for accounting for workers.
- Identify workers in your organization who have special needs. Train people willing to help those workers get to safety and be sure the helpers are physically capable of carrying out the responsibility. This is particularly important if a worker needs to be lifted or carried.
- Plan how you will alert people who cannot hear alarms or instructions during emergencies.

continued on page 4

Emergency Planning for Business – continued

- Carefully assess your company's external and internal functions to determine staff, materials, procedures and equipment that are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- Identify operations critical to survival and recovery.
- Include planning for emergency payroll continuity, expedited purchasing procedures, and accounting systems to track and document costs in the event of a disaster.
- Establish procedures for succession of management. Include at least one person who is not at the company headquarters, if possible.
- Create a contact list for existing business contractors, vendors, and other key members of your supply chain to contact in an emergency. Keep this list with other important documents in your emergency supply kit and at a secure off-site location.
- Consider if you can run the business from a different location (or from your home) if your building, plant, or store is not accessible. If appropriate, develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities in case an incident makes your location unusable.
- Consider a broad cross-section of people from throughout your organization for your emergency team. Include workers from all levels in planning and as active members, but focus on those with expertise vital to daily business functions. This team will likely include skilled technical specialists as well as company leaders.
- Define incident-management procedures and individual responsibilities in advance. Make sure those involved know what they are supposed to do, and train others who can serve as backups.
- Review your emergency plans annually. When you hire new employees or when there are changes in how your company functions, update your plan and inform your people.



Resources for additional information

Oregon OSHA has developed a free 28-page guide to emergency planning in the workplace called "Expecting the Unexpected." The guide introduces employers to incident-management systems for the workplace and explains factors to consider when planning for an emergency. The guide also addresses how to plan for modern emergencies such as threats of violence and terrorism. The guide is available in print, as a free download in the Publications section of the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orsosha.org, or on CD-ROM. For copies of the printed brochure or CD-ROM, contact the Oregon OSHA Resource Center at (800) 922-2689

Oregon OSHA Web site, Emergency Action Plans page:
www.orsosha.org/subjects/emergency_action_plan.html

Department of Homeland Security Readiness Web site:
www.ready.gov

Oregon Office of Homeland Security Web site:
www.oregon.gov/OOHS/index.shtml

Bonneville Dam undergoes renovation

If you've ever had to replace a large home appliance such as a stove or refrigerator, you know it's a big job that can take several hours. Now imagine the refrigerator is four stories tall, it has to be built from components on site and you can't knock down a wall of the historic house you live in to get the refrigerator in there. Perhaps this paints a picture of the complex variables surrounding the retrofitting work being performed on Powerhouse One of the Bonneville Dam, which spans the Columbia River just west of Cascade Locks. This complex task is being undertaken by Voith Siemens Hydro Power Generation USA, the primary contractor on the generator retrofit project.



Take a good look — This view inside a turbine housing will be gone in a few months. The base of the ladder will be underwater once the new turbine is installed and the gates opened.

In July, Oregon OSHA recognized the outstanding safety performance of Voith Siemens during renovation work on Powerhouse One with a Milestone Award. Between April 2002 and May 2005, Voith Siemens achieved 165,660 consecutive work hours without a lost-time accident.

Voith Siemens is working through each generator housing in Powerhouse

One from the bottom up, including installation of newer turbine blades that run smoother and are more 'fish-friendly' than the original turbine assemblies. Much of the work cleaning magnetic coils and constructing the metal arrays that convert motion from the rotors into electric power is performed by hand on site. Worksite housekeeping is also a focus, as the walls and floors of the powerhouse are covered in plywood to protect the decorative tile work that surrounds the powerhouse, a National Historic Landmark which was built starting in 1933 and completed in 1937. The designation prevents demolition work from occurring on the concrete footings for the turbine housings. To accomplish the job, an enormous overhead crane is pressed into service to lift out generator sections one piece at a time and, months later, to place the new assembly in its housing.

"Voith Siemens has done a great job of constantly reminding crews about the need to work safely," says Bob Langager, health and safety manager with PBS Engineering & Environmental, subcontractor for the construction project. "The company has a proactive approach to requiring personal protective equipment, and despite working inside a large powerhouse, crews are able to communicate and



Nothing is "small" at Bonneville Dam. These steel nuts are about eight inches in diameter.

keep each other working safely." "A high level of employee involvement in safety is what we look for when evaluating an employer for milestone awards such as this," says Mark Hurliman of Oregon OSHA's Employer Recognition Program. "Injuries are costly, not only to the worker's family but to an employer's bottom line. Working safely is smart business."

Voith Siemens, based in Pennsylvania, is retrofitting 10 generators in Powerhouse One on the historic hydroelectric dam, located 40 miles east of Portland. Once renovation work is completed, the two powerhouses at the dam will be capable of producing 1,076,600 kilowatts of hydroelectricity (roughly enough energy to power 250,000 homes), according to the Bonneville Power Administration. Voith Siemens has employed an average of 28 people during the renovation project.

Retrofitting is scheduled to continue through 2011.



New law changes inspection notification requirements

Governor Ted Kulongoski, at the request of Oregon OSHA, sponsored House Bill 2093 in the 2005 Legislature. House Bill 2093 was a regulatory streamlining bill, which corrected a problem affecting small employers and Oregon OSHA resulting from prior legislation.

The 1999 Legislature enacted House Bill 2830, which required Oregon OSHA to notify certain employers of an increased likelihood of inspection by the division. The purpose of the notification was to encourage employers to take advantage of Oregon OSHA's safety and health consultation services. An unanticipated result of the criteria for employer notification contained in House Bill 2830 was that several thousand small, low-hazard employers, whose workplaces were neither hazardous nor unsafe, were notified that Oregon OSHA might inspect their workplaces within the next 12 months. House Bill 2093 amended



the Oregon Safe Employment Act by eliminating the accepted disabling claims rate as criteria for employer notification. The bill provides the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services the authority to determine which industries in Oregon are deemed most unsafe, and thus which employers have an increased likelihood of inspection by Oregon OSHA.

“Many small business owners who received the notification from Oregon OSHA were left with the impression that we believed their business was an unsafe place to work,” said David Sparks, liaison for federal and external communication. “For example, if a small, low-hazard employer had one disabling claim during the previous year, that business would then have an accepted disabling claim rate well above the state average for that industry. In order to fully comply with House Bill 2830, Oregon OSHA was required to notify this employer of the increased likelihood of an Oregon OSHA inspection, even though it was unlikely that an inspection would occur at this small, low-hazard workplace.”

The new law went into effect January 1, 2006. In the fall and winter of 2005, Oregon OSHA notified more than 7,100 employers of the increased likelihood of inspection. It is the final time that a significant number of low-hazard workplaces will be included in the notification.

AWARDS



Mid-Valley Wood Products Division in Amity marked twelve consecutive years without a lost time accident during August.

Voluntary Protection Program news

Oregon's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) continues to thrive, adding two new employers to the program in the past six months.

Impregilo-Healy Joint Venture joined the Oregon OSHA Voluntary Protection Program July 15 as a VPP Merit site. Impregilo-Healy was recognized for safety and health management of the Portland West Side Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tunnel Project, commonly known as the Big Pipe.

The construction project, which includes a tunnel 14 feet in diameter paralleling (and at times beneath) the Willamette River for four miles at a depth of about 150 feet, is scheduled to be completed in 2006. During the period evaluated by Oregon OSHA, Impregilo-Healy maintained an injury rate below the national average for bridge or tunnel construction. Impregilo-Healy employs 360 people on the West Side CSO project.

In October, BOC Edwards Medford Electronics Materials in White City became the newest VPP Star site in Oregon. The Medford Electronic Materials facility purifies and packages compressed gases used primarily by the semiconductor industry. During the past three years, BOC Edwards in White City has maintained a workplace injury and illness average that is 70 percent below the national average for the compressed-gas industry. BOC Edwards employs 20 people at the White City facility.

"The Medford Electronic Materials facility has reached a level of safety and health excellence that only a select group of employers in the U.S. have achieved," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA.

"In an industry that has a number of potential hazards and opportunities for people to become injured, BOC

Edwards has taken the best parts of several approaches to safety and health and tailored them to make their safety and health program into the most effective blend for their needs."

In addition to new members, AmeriTies LLC in The Dalles was recertified as a Star site in October.

VPP is a program designed to recognize employers that have made exceptional commitments to workplace safety and health. To achieve VPP status, a worksite's three-year average injury and illness rate must be at or below the rates of other employers in the same industry. The worksite undergoes an extensive Oregon OSHA review of workplace conditions, safety records, employee safety and health programs, and regulatory compliance. The review includes Oregon OSHA interviews with employees.

Currently, nine work sites in Oregon fly the VPP flag: AmeriTies West LLC in The Dalles, BOC Edwards Medford Electronics Materials in White City, Georgia-Pacific Toledo pulp and paper mill, Georgia-Pacific Philomath mill, Georgia-Pacific Coos Bay mill, the Impregilo-Healy Joint Venture West Side CSO project in Portland, Marvin Wood Products in Baker City, PW Eagle in Eugene, and Timber Products Spectrum Division in White City.

For more information about the VPP, contact Mark Hurliman with Oregon OSHA at (503)947-7437 or read more about VPP at the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org.



Safety committee members of BOC Edwards Medford Electronic Materials receive their VPP flag from Oregon OSHA's Mark Hurliman during the Southern Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference.



SHARP is about constant improvement

By Sherry Marks, Senior Occupational Safety Consultant, Portland field office

Doncasters Medical Technologies in Oregon City received fifth-year SHARP recognition from the Oregon OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) on May 18. Doncasters became the 55th company in the state to be named a SHARP Employer when it joined the program in 2001, and the only foundry in Oregon to achieve this recognition. The success of a good safety program requires the support, direction and leadership of top management. Doncasters' management has created a safety culture that is proactive rather than reactive. Its employees know the importance of their personal safety and health to the Doncasters organization in achieving its corporate mission.

Doncasters invited Oregon OSHA Consultation into their plant to help identify and correct occupational safety and health hazards. Three Oregon OSHA professionals — a safety consultant, an ergonomic consultant, and an industrial hygienist — spent time observing and monitoring work activities, reviewing programs and records, performing walk-through assessments of potential building hazards, and interviewing staff. Doncasters began the SHARP evaluation process in 2000 and reached first-year SHARP the following year.

Working toward SHARP status helped Doncasters create a safety culture instead of simply being in compliance with Oregon OSHA standards. SHARP has increased employee awareness about safety and health; Doncasters employees know that safe production is the only acceptable

method of production, as Doncasters achieved and maintained SHARP status by maintaining an incident rate below the industry average for injuries.

"Until it reaches zero, we will continue to look for ways to improve safety and health in our plant," said Cindy Overstreet, safety and environmental Engineer for Doncasters. "SHARP employers show continuous improvement in safety and health and are self-sufficient in managing occupational safety and health."

As a SHARP member, Doncasters has shared safety and health information with other employers, as well as learning new techniques. Employee involvement is vital for a successful safety program.

Doncasters also expanded their safety committee with six safety subcommittees. This approach has been beneficial for increasing employee involvement in safety and health management. Subcommittee members tour the facility monthly, looking for hazards specific to their assigned topic. Deficiencies are noted and corrected by the appropriate supervisor of the area in which the deficiency was found. The subcommittees are:

- Signs, Labels, Markings and MSDS
- Fire Extinguishers
- Compressed Air
- Machine Guarding and Electrical Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Lockout/Tagout

Being involved in the Oregon OSHA SHARP program has been a rewarding experience for Doncasters, and they recommend SHARP to other employers.



SHARP means teamwork: Oregon OSHA's Sherry Marks presents the SHARP Graduate plaque to Cindy Overstreet, safety and environmental engineer for Doncasters, and Chris Andersen, Doncasters vice president and general manager.



Description of accident

The incident occurred in a warehouse where freight was being off-loaded from a tractor-trailer. An experienced truck driver was returning to his truck, walking through the warehouse after exiting a break room. A forklift unloading a truck next to the driver's tractor-trailer ran over the truck driver's left foot and struck the truck driver with the forklift's mast framing, causing the driver to be thrown forward. The forklift came to rest with the truck driver's right foot caught under a tire. Warehouse employees trained as EMT first responders were able to extricate the victim and provide first aid until the injured driver could be transported to hospital, where he was treated for severe damage to the left foot and ankle. The truck driver underwent surgery to remove the crushed toes from his left foot.

Investigation findings

The forklift driver had not seen the walking truck driver. Pallets were stacked between loading doors in the warehouse, obstructing the view from one bay door to another. While there was a company policy requiring visitors to be escorted through the warehouse, it was not followed in this instance. Pedestrian walkways through the warehouse were apparent, but they were not clearly marked for employees and visitors. The employer, despite having more than 10 employees, had not established a safety committee.

Prevention information

- Make sure that permanent aisles and passageways are appropriately marked.
- Find out if safety committees are required in your work place by contacting Oregon OSHA. Safety committees save lives, and are required for many employers in Oregon. Consult the "Safety Committee Advisor" area on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.oregonaosha.org, for assistance.
- Provide adequate training for employees, especially in safe vehicle operations and identifying potential hazards.

NOTE:

Safety Notes are provided for informational purposes to educate employers about an occupational accident that occurred, and applicable safety and health standards meant to prevent incidents. The incident summary provided above could vary from information obtained as part of an Oregon OSHA official investigation, and should not be relied upon or considered a substitute for the official investigation information. This information is not guaranteed to be complete or accurate, and the user is responsible for any conclusions drawn from such information. This information is not a substitute for any provision of the Oregon Safe Employment Act or any standards issued by Oregon OSHA.



Descripción del accidente

El suceso ocurrió en una bodega donde estaban descargando carga de un tráiler de un camión de carga. Un camionero experimentado regresaba a pie a su camión, cruzando la bodega después de dejar la sala de descanso. Un montacargas descargando un tráiler al lado del trailer del camionero, le pasó por arriba del pie izquierdo y atropellándolo con el armazón del mástil, lo lanzó hacia adelante. El montacargas vino a pararse con el pie derecho del camionero atrapado bajo una llanta. Trabajadores de la bodega capacitados para administrar primeros auxilios en emergencias médicas (EMT), pudieron librar a la víctima y darle primeros auxilios hasta que el camionero lesionado pudiera ser llevado al hospital, en donde se le dió tratamiento por daño serio a su pie izquierdo y tobillo. Al camionero se le operó para removerle los dedos triturados de su pie izquierdo.

Resultados de la investigación

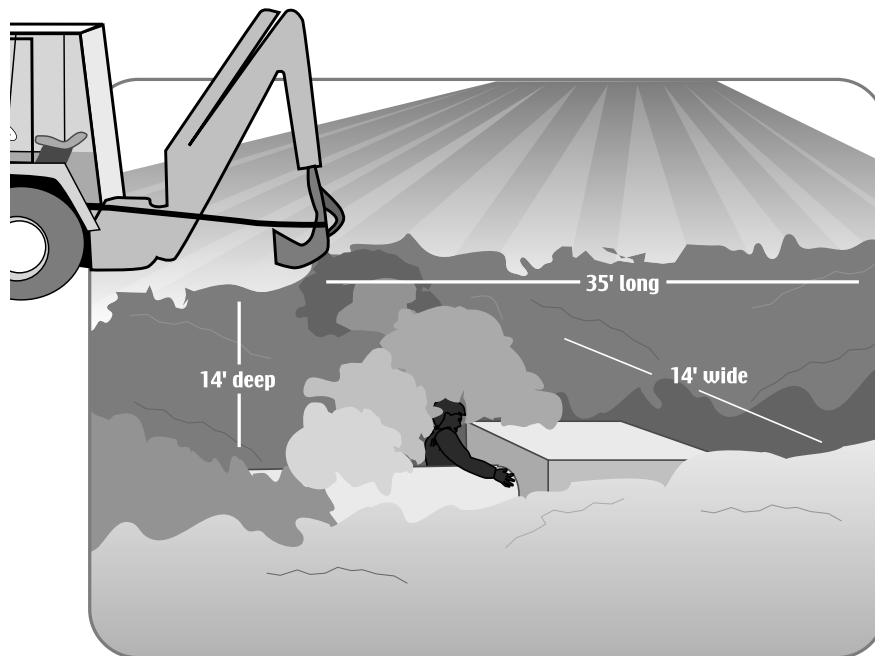
El operador del montacargas no había visto al camionero caminando. Habían paletas apiladas entre las puertas del área de carga obstruyendo la vista entre una puerta del área de carga y otra, práctica común en esta bodega. Aunque había una política de la compañía requiriendo que a visitantes se les acompañe por la bodega, en este caso no se siguió. Caminos peatonales atravesando la bodega se podían ver, pero no estaban claramente señaladas para trabajadores o visitantes. El patrón, a pesar de tener más de 10 trabajadores, no había establecido un comité de seguridad.

Información de prevención

- Asegurar que pasillos y caminos peatonales estén correctamente marcados.
- Determine si comités de seguridad se requieren en su lugar de trabajo llamando a Oregon OSHA. Los comités de seguridad salvan vidas, y se requieren para muchas compañías en Oregon.
- Proporcionar adiestramiento para los trabajadores, especialmente en el manejo seguro de vehículos e identificando posibles peligros.

NOTA:

Las Notas de Seguridad se proporcionan con el propósito de educar a los empleadores sobre un accidente de trabajo ocurrido y las normas de seguridad e higiene establecidas para prevenir accidentes. El resumen del suceso presentado anteriormente, puede ser diferente de la información obtenida por Oregon OSHA como parte de una investigación oficial y, no se le debería depender, o tratar como sustituto a la información de la investigación oficial. Esta información no se le garantiza ser completa o certera, y el usuario es responsable por sacar cualquier conclusión de tal información. Esta información no sustituye ningún proviso del Acta de Trabajo Seguro de Oregon o cualquiera de las normas emitidas por Oregon OSHA.



Description of accident

Two employees were excavating a buried irrigation pipeline for an agricultural operation. One employee operated a backhoe to unearth concrete vaults in a trench 35 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 14 feet deep, while the second employee entered the trench to remove soil remaining around the pipeline and vault. While the second employee was in the trench, a bank collapsed, completely covering the worker. The backhoe operator attempted to rescue the worker by use of the backhoe bucket and a hand shovel before driving the backhoe several miles to gain assistance. The buried worker died before rescuers could unearth him.

Investigation findings

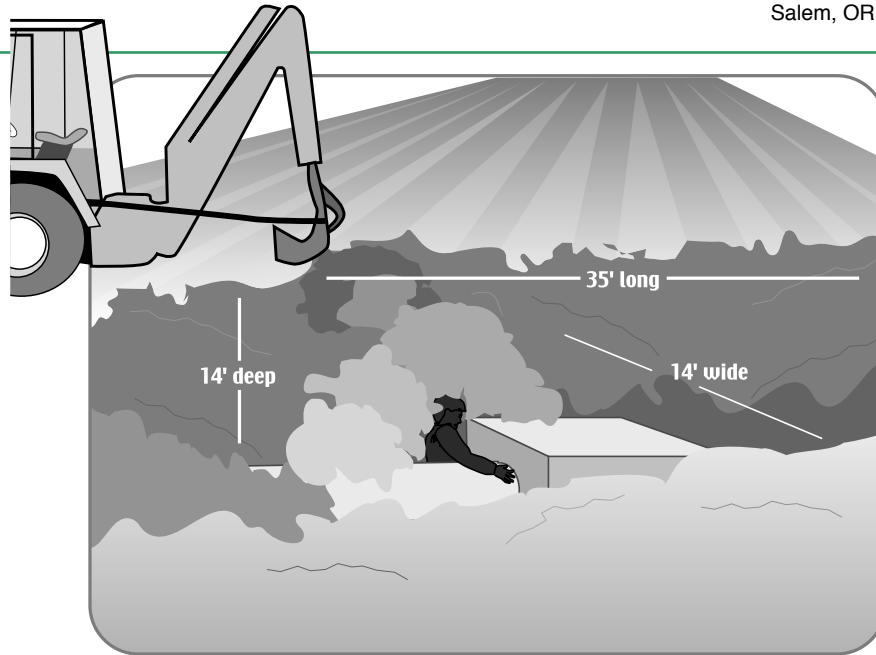
The excavation was not shored or sloped. Excavation spoil was stored at the edge of the trench, increasing the weight on the bank and increasing the potential for collapse. The victim had never worked on an excavation project and had not been trained on excavation hazards. Neither employee was provided instruction about adequate shoring. No emergency medical plan or communication equipment was provided for workers at the remote work site.

Prevention information

- Always use appropriate shoring and protective systems in excavations greater than 5 feet deep.
- Provide adequate training for employees in safe work procedures.
- Understand and comply with appropriate standards for excavation work. (See *Division 3-P Rules*, or *Division 4 for agricultural employers*).
- Develop and implement an emergency medical plan to ensure rapid medical treatment for injured workers.
- Ensure that communication devices are available to all employees.

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Descripción de accidente

En una empresa agrícola, dos trabajadores estaban excavando un tubo de irrigación enterrado. Un trabajador operaba una retroexcavadora para desterrar bóvedas de concreto en una trinchera de 35 pies de largo, 14 pies de anchura y 14 pies de profundidad mientras el segundo trabajador se metió a la trinchera para sacar tierra del alrededor del tubo y la bóveda. Mientras el segundo trabajador estaba en la trinchera, un talud se derrumbó, cubriendo por completo al trabajador. Tras intentar rescatar al trabajador usando la pala mecánica de la retroexcavadora y una pala de mano, el operario manejo la retroexcavadora varias millas por ayuda. El trabajador sepultado murió antes de que los rescatadores lo pudieran desterrar.

Resultados de la investigación

La excavación no estaba apuntalada o declivada. Los desechos de la excavación estaban apilados al borde de la trinchera, aumentando el peso sobre el borde y elevando la posibilidad de un derrumbe. La víctima nunca había trabajado en una obra de excavación y no había sido adiestrado en los peligros de las excavaciones. A ninguno de los trabajadores se le había adiestrado sobre apuntalamiento adecuado. No se había provisto ningún plan médico de emergencia o equipo de comunicación a los trabajadores en el remoto lugar de trabajo.

Información de prevención

- Siempre use apuntalamiento y sistemas protectores adecuados en excavaciones mayores de 5 pies de profundidad.
- Proporcione a los trabajadores adiestramiento en procedimientos laborales seguros.
- Entienda y cumpla con las reglas apropiadas de labores de excavaciones. (Vea las Normas, División 3-P o División 4 para empleadores agrícolas).
- Desarrolle y ponga en pie un plan médico de emergencia para asegurar tratamiento médico rápido para trabajadores lesionados.
- Asegúrese de que todos los trabajadores dispongan de aparatos de comunicación.

NOTA:

Las Notas de Seguridad se proporcionan con el propósito de educar a los empleadores sobre un accidente de trabajo ocurrido y las normas de seguridad e higiene establecidas para prevenir accidentes. El resumen del suceso presentado anteriormente, puede ser diferente de la información obtenida por Oregon OSHA como parte de una investigación oficial y, no se le debería depender, o tratar como sustituto a la información de la investigación oficial. Esta información no se le garantiza ser completa o certera, y el usuario es responsable por sacar cualquier conclusión de tal información. Esta información no sustituye ningún proviso del Acta de Trabajo Seguro de Oregon o cualquiera de las normas emitidas por Oregon OSHA.

SHARP: 100 and counting!



The Oregon OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) recently welcomed the 100th employer participating as a current SHARP company or a company achieving SHARP Graduate status.

T-Mobile USA's Call Center in Salem became a first-year member in September. The call center has maintained a three-year average of workplace injuries and illnesses that is 40 percent below the statewide industry average. During 2004, the T-Mobile Salem Call Center recorded an injury rate 70 percent below the state average. The state average for cellular telephone service employers is 2.6 lost-work-day cases annually per 100 workers.

Later in September, the Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) plywood plant in Coquille became a SHARP Graduate. During the past three years of being a SHARP employer, the Coquille plywood plant reduced the number of injuries that resulted in a day of work being lost by 75 percent. In 2004, RFP Coquille maintained a workplace injury and illness rate that was 56 percent below the statewide industry average for plywood producers.

"Continuous improvement in safety and health benefits everyone," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "Workers come home safe to their families, productivity improves, and business costs from accidents go down. Participating in SHARP helps employers see those benefits right away."

For additional information about the SHARP program, contact Mark Hurliman with Oregon OSHA at (503) 947-7437. More about SHARP on the Web: <http://www.orosha.org/consult/sharp.htm>



T-Mobile USA's Salem Call Center joined SHARP in September. Great work, T-Mobile!



Timber Products Trucking Division in Central Point became a SHARP Graduate on September 30th.



TYCO Precision Interconnect in Wilsonville marked a sixth year in SHARP by becoming a SHARP Graduate.

Safety Break for Oregon

Mark your calendars for the Safety Break for Oregon on May 10, 2006!

Oregon OSHA and employers throughout Oregon developed the one-day event in 2002 to raise awareness and showcase the value of workplace safety and health in preventing injuries and illnesses. Safety Break for Oregon, observed on the second Wednesday in May, is designed to be flexible and easily adapted to an employer's safety and health program needs.

Employers came up with innovative ideas for thinking about safety and health in the workplace, including safety awards luncheons, training videos about office ergonomics, information fairs focused on safety, even after-work events for workers and their families to say "thank you" for being injury-free.

Thank you to the following employers for their support of the 2005 Safety Break for Oregon:

- **American Red Cross Pacific Northwest
Regional Blood Services**
 - **Associated General Contractors**
 - **Canby Telephone Association**
- **Chemical Manufacturing (Portland)**
 - **City of Milwaukie**
- **City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services**
 - **Comcast Oregon**
 - **Depaul Industries**
- **Doncasters Medical Technologies**
- **Eugene Water & Electric Board**
 - **Intel Corporation**
 - **Josephine County**
- **Kirby Nagelhout Construction**
- **Oberto Sausage Company (Albany)**
- **Oregon Institute of Technology**
 - **R&H Construction**
 - **Redwood Safety Association**
 - **State of Oregon:**
 - **Department of Consumer and Business Services**
 - **Department of Human Services**
 - **Department of Housing and Community Services**
 - **Parks and Recreation Department**
 - **Department of Environmental Quality**
 - **Oregon State Treasury**
 - **Ventura Foods**
 - **Warm Springs Forest Products**
- **Washington Group International (Umatilla)**
- **Weyerhaeuser Springfield Timberlands**

It's not too early to plan ahead for 2006's Safety Break:

- Look for safety and health success at your business and celebrate! Provide recognition to people who are "Safety All-Stars" in your organization. The Safety Break on May 10 provides a great opportunity to present awards during a lunchtime event.
- Incorporate safety into new-employee orientation. The time to teach an employee the value of working safely is when they start working. Injury statistics for Oregon show the link between time on the job and the likelihood that an employee will be injured. One-third of serious accidents occur during the employee's first year on the job; 10 percent of serious injuries occur to workers who are in their first month at work. A commitment to training at the start reduces the risk of a worker becoming seriously injured.
- Focus on problem areas. Look at your organization's injury trends. Find out from safety and risk-management staff where injuries are occurring and discuss how to reduce them. Conduct "pick-up" meetings to identify safety concerns; these types of meetings take about 10 minutes and offer opportunities to address safety issues and hear about staff concerns.
- Demonstrate that safety and health is a value, not just a priority. Make sure that everyone, regardless of their places in the organization, know the safety regulations and follows them.
- Talk about safety and health. Write a safety article for your company newsletter. Post summarized safety statistics in the lunchroom or around the coffee maker. Talk directly to employees about workplace safety. Remember that every interaction at your business is an opportunity to emphasize safety and health.
- Safety committees make a difference. Find out more about your safety committee; recognize great work done by the safety committee, including specific safety issues that have been corrected. Attend a safety committee meeting as a volunteer or guest speaker. Participate in a quarterly safety walk-through inspection.

Oregon OSHA will be updating the www.orosha.org Web site in January with information about the 2006 event.

Oregon workers' compensation premiums to remain flat in 2006

The Department of Consumer and Business Services announced in September that the average "pure" premium rate employers pay for Oregon workers' compensation insurance will remain flat in 2006, marking the fourth year in a row with no average change after 12 consecutive years of rate reductions — a national record that has resulted in cumulative cost-savings worth billions of dollars to Oregon employers.

"Low workers' compensation costs are a critical tool for expanding and recruiting business in Oregon," Governor Ted Kulongoski said. "To continue our success, we must work together to keep workers safe on the job. Keeping costs down depends on keeping workers healthy and injury-free."

On average, employers in Oregon can expect to pay about the same amount for their workers' compensation insurance premiums in 2006 as they have in 2005, but because of an estimated \$33.4 million in reduced fees assessed through the workers' compensation premium assessment and the Workers' Benefit Fund, their overall workers' compensation costs will be lower. Specific cost changes will vary from business to business, depending on a given employer's industry, claims experience, workforce, and other factors.

"The 2005 Legislature enacted measures to improve benefits and assure fairness for injured workers with respect to areas such as independent medical exams and permanent total disability," said DCBS Director Cory Streisinger. "At the same time, we continue to work with employers to make workplaces safer so that fewer workers will need to file claims in the first place."

Washington officials recently proposed an average premium increase of 3.8 percent for next year. California has announced significant rate decreases as recent workers' compensation reforms take effect, but costs there are still much higher than those in Oregon. A 2004 study by DCBS found that Oregon's premiums had dropped to 42nd in the nation, while Washington's were 35th and California's were the most expensive. The department will conduct a new rate ranking study next year.

Oregon's national ranking in workers' compensation costs moved from sixth most expensive in the nation in 1986 to 42nd by 2004. During this time, maximum benefits for permanently disabled workers in Oregon have increased dramatically to a compensation level above the national median, while temporary total-disability benefits have increased to 133 percent of the state's average weekly wage. Meanwhile, increased emphasis on workplace safety has driven Oregon injury and illness rates down by nearly 48 percent in the private sector and over 39 percent in the public sector since 1988. This includes all work-related injuries and illnesses recordable under Oregon OSHA standards,

regardless of whether they later resulted in accepted claims for workers' compensation benefits.

The new premium and assessment rates went into effect January 1, 2006.

Details on rate changes

Workers' compensation insurance premiums

The average pure premium rate Oregon employers will pay for workers' compensation insurance in 2006 will remain unchanged from 2005. The pure premium rate is the base premium reflecting the actual cost of workplace injury and illness claims, before insurer administrative expenses and profit are added. This means that, on average, employers' workers' compensation premium costs for the year will remain flat. The unchanged 2006 rate represents an average across all types of businesses. Rates for specific businesses and industry groups may be higher or lower, depending on group and individual claim records. Employers pay their premiums directly to their insurers. Although the state sets the pure premium rate, premiums do not fund state programs or services.

Workers' compensation premium assessment

The recommended 2006 workers' compensation premium assessment rate of 5.5 percent would be down from 6.8 percent, the rate effective during 2005. This would amount to a reduction of over 19 percent in the total assessment, bringing it to its lowest level since 1997. Self-insured employers and self-insured employer groups would pay a rate of 5.7 percent.

Workers' Benefit Fund assessment

For calendar year 2006, the Department of Consumer and Business Services has set the Workers' Benefit Fund assessment rate at 3.0 cents, down from 3.4 cents in 2005. This applies to each hour or partial hour worked by each paid employee provided with workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Workers' Benefit Fund assessment pays for certain programs that provide direct benefits to injured workers and their beneficiaries. The fund also provides money to help employers help injured workers return to work.

Oregon OSHA and Fire Departments: Finding the right FIT

No one will debate that firefighters face dangers every day on the job; likewise, most people agree that performing work safely is vital to workers coming home safe to their families. One strategy to help Oregon OSHA and fire departments throughout the state find common ground on safety and health issues is Oregon OSHA's Fire Inspection Team (FIT).

The Fire Inspection Team was created following the Oregon OSHA investigation into the fatal Farwest Auto Parts fire on November 25, 2002, that claimed the lives of three Coos Bay fire fighters — Lt. Randy Carpenter, Jeff Commons, and Chuck Hanners. Nearly three years after the worst line-of-duty death incident in Oregon, what Oregon OSHA evaluators found impressed them.

"We found a transformed fire department in Coos Bay," said Ken Makinson, safety enforcement manager for Oregon OSHA's Eugene field office. "The city applied for grants to receive new turnouts and breathing equipment, thermal imaging equipment and other supplies meant to save lives when seconds count. One of the most impressive changes is the renewed focus on safety. Standard operating procedures are routinely reviewed, monthly inspections are performed and the attitude is very proactive in addressing safety issues."

One of the important roles of the FIT is to provide personalized service to the firefighting community by putting a face to the Oregon OSHA regulations to which the fire service must conform. For many fire departments, that face is Senior Safety Compliance Officer Jason Jantzi of the Portland field office. Jantzi is a frequent participant at monthly meetings of safety officers from the metropolitan Portland-area fire and rescue service providers, offering perspective on interpretation issues, training resources, and standards under review.

"Jason has been a tremendous help to me and other safety officers in the Portland area," said Battalion Chief Tim Dahl of Clackamas County Fire District No. 1. "It is very difficult to apply general-industry safety standards to the fire service because of the specialized activities, processes, and personal protective equipment required in the myriad situations in which fire fighters operate. Jason's understanding of what firefighters have to do each day has resulted in a meaningful dialogue between the fire service and Oregon OSHA."

Jantzi's diligent work on behalf of firefighter safety, combined with prior firefighting expertise, earned Jantzi the Safety Management Award from the City of Portland and the Portland Fire Bureau in January 2005. The award, unique for being presented to a person outside of the Portland Fire Bureau community, recognized Jantzi's work assisting the committee that developed new administrative

rules to govern live fire training exercises and promoting firefighter safety. Jantzi has also received commendations for his work from the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.

In addition to compliance assistance with meeting Oregon OSHA standards, fire districts can also participate in the rulemaking process through the Oregon OSHA Fire Fighter Standards Advisory Committee.

"The Oregon OSHA Fire Fighter Standards Advisory Committee has been instrumental in getting representatives from different Fire Service groups together," said Rocky Hanes, president of Tualatin Valley fire fighters union, IAFF Local 1660.

"We have helped to steer Oregon OSHA to a place where there is a genuine interest in understanding what we, as professional firefighters, do.

With understanding comes the desire to make our job safer, and achievable goals can be developed."

"Mike Mitchell and Marilyn Schuster deserve praise for the existence of the Fire Fighter Standards Advisory Committee," said Dahl. "This group includes a broad representation of the Oregon fire service, both career and volunteer officers, who meet regularly to work on the improvement and application of state standards for fire service."

Helping fire departments reach a higher level of safety performance is the goal of the FIT and the Fire Fighter Standards Advisory Committee. The test of success is how fire departments view their relationship with the state agency charged with workplace safety, hopefully mirroring a recent opinion expressed by members of the Coos Bay firefighters union.



"From their point of view, Oregon OSHA is considered to be a great resource for fire departments across the state," said Makinson.

"Many fire service professionals had less-than-positive experiences with Oregon OSHA in the past," said Dahl. "That's changed. The people of Oregon OSHA have been an important part of making this change happen, with the result being better communication between both sides and safer environments for fire fighters to work in."

Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded to three Oregon students

Three 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 2005-2006 academic year.

Three scholarships of \$4,700 each were awarded. 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 also attended Clackamas Community College. Becker attends Albertson College in Caldwell, Idaho, as a history major, and plans to pursue a career in teaching.
- **Annette Maready** of Eugene. Maready's father died in a work-related accident in 1985 when Annette was three months old. She is a 2003 graduate of North Eugene High School. Maready attends the University of Oregon with a major in philosophy; she plans to enter the University of Oregon Law School.
- **Natasha (Whitaker) Kilfoil** of Monmouth. Kilfoil's father became permanently paralyzed during a logging accident in 1974. Natasha was born in 1984, and went on to become the valedictorian of Central High School in Independence in 2002. She also received the Workers' Memorial Scholarship award in 2002, 2003 and 2004. Kilfoil attends Oregon State University with a dual major in forestry management and economics, pursuing a career goal of working in forest management.

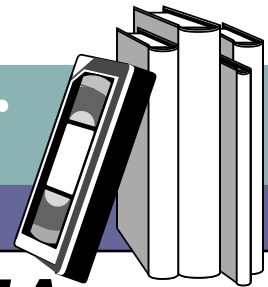
Award recommendations are made by Oregon OSHA's Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, an advisory group comprised of stakeholders from business, organized labor and government. Applicants must be Oregon residents receiving fatality benefits, a dependent or spouse of a fatally injured worker, or be the dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who has incurred a permanent total disability and whose claim for workers' compensation benefits has been accepted. The Workers' Memorial Scholarship is open to any high school graduate, graduating high school senior, GED recipient, current college undergraduate or graduate student who is a dependent or spouse of an Oregon worker who was fatally injured or permanently disabled on the job.

Oregon OSHA presents annual scholarships to assist in the post-secondary education of spouses or children of permanently disabled or fatally injured workers. The Workers' Memorial Scholarship was established by the 1991 Legislature at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO with support from Associated Oregon Industries.



(L-R) Deb Fell-Carlson of SAIF Corporation (member of the Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Council), Jillian Becker, Annette Maready, DCBS director Cory Streisinger. Not pictured: Natasha Kilfoil.

The OR-OSHA Resource Center and Audiovisual Library



Welcome to the Oregon OSHA Resource Center

By Jane Kirby, Oregon OSHA Resource Center Coordinator

“Field trip at 10?” asks Craig Hamelund from the Oregon OSHA Public Education staff. “You bet!” I respond, making a mental note to expect students from his training workshop during their mid-morning break. Location is everything, and having the Oregon OSHA Resource Center just down the hall from the training room at the Labor and Industries Building provides a great chance to help students get acquainted with the Resource Center’s collection and services.

As Craig exits, Steve Petty from Mail Services rolls in a handtruck laden with educational videos being returned to the Resource Center. I hear a steady cadence of business names read aloud as Gwen Ottoson, the center’s video librarian, checks the boxes against the delivery list. I recognize many of the names as regular customers, companies large and small, but also notice some unfamiliar names, perhaps new start-up companies building up a safety program, or established businesses that may have just discovered this long-standing Oregon OSHA service. After all, Oregon OSHA and the former state Accident

Prevention Division have been building the resource and training materials collection for 60 years!

The door opens again and a woman, pushing a toddler in a stroller, rushes in to pick up a video reserved for her husband’s company. “You can return the video to us in person or by a package carrier that offers order tracking service for the video,” Gwen cheerfully tells the woman. “We don’t charge a rental fee, your only cost is the return postage.”

I hear a click of the door handle and look up as a young man tentatively enters the room, pushing his sunglasses up on his head. “Do you have the brochure about safety for landscapers here?” he says. “Yes, we do,” says Mary Beth Holt, the Resource Center’s publications specialist. “Have you also heard about the Oregon OSHA CD-ROM? It has all of our agency’s rules and publications on it so you can browse from your computer.”

As the pace of the morning increases, I remember a lecture presented by one of my library school professors. “What is a library?” he asked. “An archive of information!” a student eagerly responded. “Yes, that is true,” he replied, “but shouldn’t it also be a community gathering place? A crossroads for information exchange?”

I smile as I consider how well that phrase describes the Oregon OSHA Resource Center, especially on this busy morning. In fact, with its location at the intersection of our building’s cafeteria, elevators, and meeting rooms, the center is a literal and figurative crossroads for anyone in search of workplace safety and health information.

The door flies open again. “Field trip!” proclaims Craig with his students following behind. “Welcome to the Oregon OSHA Resource Center!” I answer.

Jane, Gwen, Mary Beth and the staff of the Oregon OSHA Resource Center are ready to help you create safer workplaces. Call (800) 922-2689, browse the Resource Center collection on-line at the Oregon OSHA Web site (www.orosha.org) or drop by and visit when you’re in Salem’s Labor and Industries Building. We’re open Monday through Friday from 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

AWARDS



Employees and management of Georgia-Pacific Toledo, a long-standing VPP Star site in Oregon, celebrate receiving the GP Chairman’s Safety Award for 500,000 hours without an injury.

Questions?

OR-OSHA has field offices across Oregon. If you have questions or need information, call us toll-free (800) 922-2689, or phone one of the offices listed below.

Portland

1750 N.W. Naito Pkwy., Ste. 12
Portland 97209-2533
(503) 229-5910
Consultations:
(503) 229-6193

Eugene

1140 Willagillespie, Ste. 42
Eugene, OR 97401-2101
(541) 686-7562
Consultations:
(541) 686-7913

Pendleton

721 SE Third St., Ste. 306
Pendleton, OR 97801-3056
(541) 276-9175
Consultations:
(541) 276-2353

Medford

1840 Barnett Rd., Ste. D
Medford, OR 97504-8250
(541) 776-6030
Consultations:
(541) 776-6016

Salem

1340 Tandem Ave., Ste. 160
Salem, OR 97303
(503) 378-3274
Consultations:
(503) 373-7819

Bend

Red Oak Square
1230 NE Third St., Ste. A-115
Bend, OR 97701-4374
(541) 388-6066
Consultations:
(541) 388-6068

Salem Central

350 Winter St. NE, Rm. 430
Salem, OR 97301-3882
(503) 378-3272
Fax: (503) 947-7461

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RESOURCE

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Return to: Oregon OSHA Resource Center, 350 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-3882

Can you see me now? Good!

Winter months in the northern U.S. means shorter daylight hours and more of the workday spent in darkness or reduced visibility. Many workplaces have vehicles in close proximity to where people are working, whether it's construction work, deliveries or jobs where employees work in yards or parking lots. It's vital to take steps to make sure other people can see your employees.

- Remind workers exposed to traffic to be on guard constantly for vehicles.
- Provide designated walkways or paths to keep people separated from mobile equipment.
- Wear high-visibility clothing that contrasts with garment background and contrasts with equipment.
- Wear reflective vests if there is frequent exposure to traffic.



Remember to make your employees more visible!

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