

OREGON HEALTH & SAFETY RESOURCE

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The City That
Works...
Safely**
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Administrator's Message

The critical role of leadership in worker safety

As I write these words, I am preparing to speak at the Central Oregon Safety and Health Conference on the topic of leadership in workplace health and safety. I think most of us recognize that sustained success in dramatically reducing workplace risk is not possible without true leadership. The importance of effective leadership is reflected in Oregon OSHA's publications and education efforts, as well as in the rules themselves.

Training goes out the window if a supervisor frowns when an employee returns to the service vehicle for the right ladder, rather than "making do." And it is a senior employee's day-to-day behavior, not the training he or she provides, that teaches newer employees what is important to their employer and their co-workers. Employers that do not learn to control and shape that message can never truly ensure that workers are not exposed to preventable risks.

One of the most effective safety and health speakers I have heard is Charlie Morecraft. The burns he suffered in a plant fire and explosion caused by his carelessness with a cigarette provide a powerful message about personal responsibility for one's own safety and health (and that of co-workers). But what is

sometimes missed in the video presentations I have seen is that his carelessness was fostered by the workplace culture. He did what he had been taught to do.

I once heard Morecraft talk about an early incident that (to me, at least) explained the attitude that would allow him to light a cigarette in the middle of a potentially explosive environment.

On one of his first assignments, the young Morecraft responded to a chemical release. When the alarm sounded, he turned to his gear and began to suit up. One of his older co-workers said something to the effect of "what do you need that crap for?" So he went out, with the rest, to turn off the valve and control the release — without his gear. Upon returning, he was coughing and wheezing when the same co-worker slapped him on the back and said "You done good, kid!" As Morecraft describes it, his training disappeared completely at that moment.

As I recall, Morecraft did not draw the explicit link to his near death, but I will. I would suggest that a seed was planted that day that took years to germinate. But it burst into full flower when he lit a cigarette where he should not have, probably for the hundredth time — but his luck had run out.



Michael Wood

It is possible to get this message right. I heard a construction safety director tell a story of coming down the stairs from a four-story building only to realize he had left his hard hat on the roof landing. It was just 50 yards or so to his truck, and he had another hard hat there — but the company had adopted a strict hard-hat requirement for the workers on the ground. He thought about it a moment, sighed, and then headed back up the stairs — only after he started up did he realize that several employees, on the roof and on the grounds, were watching to see if he was going to "walk the talk." He got the message right that day — but he admitted that he was close to going the other direction.

As we go about our day-to-day activities, each of us has the opportunity to remind our employers, our co-workers, and others of the importance of leadership and of setting the right example. Perhaps just as important, we frequently have the opportunity ourselves to "walk the talk." Let's not miss those chances!

Michael Wood, CSP

RESOURCE

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Cover photo: Portlandia by sculptor Raymond Kaskey welcomes visitors and staff to the Portland Building, home of city offices. (Photograph by Kevin Weeks)



Oregon OSHA provides consultation services to help employers

Oregon OSHA offers a no-cost service that has helped thousands of Oregon employers create safer workplaces and reduce their workers' compensation costs by as much as 60 percent: worksite safety, health, and ergonomic consultations.

Thirty-four Oregon OSHA safety and health professionals across the state provide no-cost consultations at more than 2,000 worksites each year. Consultations, conducted at the request of an employer, evaluate any or all aspects of worksite occupational safety and health. The employer determines the scope of the evaluation. Oregon OSHA provides employers receiving a consultation with a report summarizing the visit, including recommendations for improvement.

Consultations are kept confidential from Oregon OSHA's enforcement program. "We're here to assist employers," said Suzanne Kailey, manager of consultation and outreach for Oregon OSHA. "We provide a wide variety of services focused on an employer's needs. We cover rule requirements and also offer best practices and practical solutions to fit the specific needs of employers. Our goal is to teach employers how to implement and manage their own safety and health programs."

No matter the specialized needs of your business, Oregon OSHA consultants can show you how simple it is to incorporate the basics of effective safety and health management into your workplace.

Consultations often lead to participation in Oregon OSHA's two recognition programs — SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) and VPP (Voluntary Protection Program). The programs are for employers that manage their programs to a degree that exceeds Oregon OSHA standards and whose safety and health programs include strong employee involvement. SHARP recognizes employers that have made a commitment to safety and health and are actively implementing a safety and health program. VPP recognizes employers that have achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency and regularly exceed Oregon

OSHA standards. These are model employers that have incorporated safety and health into their business culture.

Participation in the SHARP or VPP programs can result in a positive but unintended side effect — more business.

"One area of benefit that we didn't predict with SHARP is how we have a great tool to attract new clients," said Jeff Anderson of Cenveo Graphic Arts Center in Portland. "It's amazing how many large companies with well-established safety programs are now requiring their vendors to provide a safe working environment. From time to time, a client will ask for some evidence of the quality of our safety program. As a SHARP recipient, I can now send our potential clients information about our safety and health commitment."

Oregon OSHA consultants are able to recommend safety and health management practices that produce a tangible bottom-line result for employers. For example, Siltronic Corp. in Portland experienced a 57 percent reduction in lost-workday injury cases and a 70 percent reduction in workers' compensation costs during its participation in SHARP.

"The consultant's goal is to help the employer become self-sufficient in its safety and health at work," said Brenda Camacho-Ching, consultation manager for Oregon OSHA's Portland field office. "Everyone benefits from employers being proactive about controlling and eliminating hazards. The consultation can be a very positive and educational experience for the employer."

Customer service surveys consistently show that more than 90 percent of employers that have used Oregon OSHA's consultation services say the visit helped them improve the safety and health of their workplace.

Some employers may be hesitant to request Oregon OSHA consultation services, but they can be assured that the consultation is completely separate from enforcement.

"Consultation does not share information with our enforcement section; it is a

confidential service," said Robert Salinas, consultation manager for Oregon OSHA's Salem field office. "Consultations by Oregon OSHA are completely separate from enforcement inspections."

Oregon OSHA consultants truly enjoy visiting employers and helping them improve their safety and health programs, said Rocky Shampang, consultation manager for Oregon OSHA's Eugene field office.

"Employers can make a positive impact by tackling safety and health hazards on the front end, before someone is hurt at work," Shampang said.

How can Oregon OSHA help you?

Listed below are some common consultations:

• **New-business consultations**

If you are starting a business from the ground up, expanding a current business, or relocating to Oregon, a consultant can review your programs and provide practical, economical recommendations for operating a safe workplace.

• **Safety consultations**

Oregon OSHA safety consultants will examine your workplace for safety hazards, review your written programs, and evaluate your existing safety and health program and the physical layout of your business to help you eliminate and prevent hazards.

• **Ergonomic consultations**

An ergonomic consultant will help you identify ergonomic risks and develop a safety and health program that can prevent strains and sprains, cumulative trauma disorders, and repetitive-motion problems.

• **Health consultations**

During a health consultation, an industrial hygiene professional will evaluate your worksite for potential health hazards involving chemicals, noise, biological agents, and air contaminants. The industrial hygienist also will review the effectiveness of written safety and health programs in controlling or eliminating hazards.

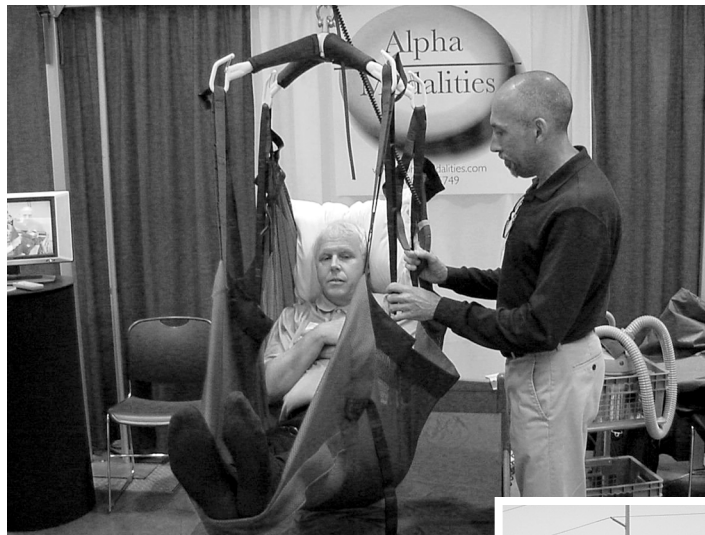
Healthcare Ergonomics Conference in Portland a success

More than 250 people from around the United States attended the 2nd National Healthcare Ergonomics conference in Portland during June.

Keynote speaker Dr. Audrey Nelson astounded conference attendees with the statistic that a nurse, during an average eight-hour shift, will lift a total of 1.8 tons — the total weight of a sedan with three people aboard. During a year, including two weeks of vacation, that health care provider ends up lifting a total of 450 tons — the weight of an Airbus A380 jet with half its seats full.

The conference was presented by the Oregon Coalition for Healthcare Ergonomics (OCHE), Oregon Nurses Foundation, and Oregon OSHA. Feedback from the first Healthcare Ergonomics conference in 2004 helped conference organizers design improvements for the 2006 conference.

Nurse educators learned about the new national Safe Patient Handling and Movement Curriculum during a workshop sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on June 26.



New safe lift techniques for health care professionals were a major topic of discussion at the conference.

"This workshop served as a 'kick-off' event for OCHE to assist schools of nursing in Oregon to implement the curriculum," said Lynda Enos, chair of the Oregon Coalition for Healthcare Ergonomics.

The new national curriculum was developed through a research partnership among NIOSH, the American Nurses Association, and the U.S. Veterans Administration.



American Medical Response demonstrated a new bariatric care ambulance that can lift and transport up to 1,600 pounds.

“Health care, which represents a growing economic sector for the state of Oregon, is experiencing an increased injury and illness rate at the same time that the rate in most industries is going down,” said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. “That’s a challenge that labor, business, and government working together need to address. The health care industry has unique hazards such as safe patient handling and workplace violence.”



Demonstrations included a crane showing the safe way to help a patient from a vehicle, including side-load minivans.

NexCon 2006

Photo by Kent Anderson

Next Generation Construction Summit: Defining the New Critical Path

Why has safety become fundamental to construction success?

**Join other
Construction
Leaders
to discuss
and shape
the future
of our
industry**

November 8 & 9, 2006 • Portland, Oregon

More information and on-line registration:
www.cce.oregonstate.edu/nexcon/

Questions?
Call Greg Baker at (541) 737-8059 or e-mail: NexCon@oregonstate.edu

Willamette Landscape Services is first SHARP landscaping firm



Oregon OSHA recently welcomed Willamette Landscape Services in Tualatin to its Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). Willamette Landscape Services is the first landscape contractor in Oregon to qualify for certification in the program.

“The most important lesson our company has learned through SHARP has been the realization that it takes a lot of honest, hard work to reach all of our employees in a way that helps them stay engaged in working safely,” said Matt Triplett, vice president of Willamette Landscape Services. “It took the SHARP program to focus our efforts and make us realize that we had to work on reaching out to all of our employees — a long-running successful management team and safety committee was not enough. SHARP has been a unifying point that all of our employees have been able to rally around for safety.”

to balance when you’re in business. It’s important to provide the most value-filled service you can to your customers, but it can never be at the expense of the health or safety of hard-working employees. We started into the SHARP consultations in pretty good shape, but soon learned that we still needed to figure out how to spread our well-intentioned safety efforts throughout the entire company. It took a fair amount of work, but with a focused action plan, we figured out how to make it happen in a big way! We are a more conscientious employer now, and I feel great knowing that we can offer safe and productive employment to everybody who works with us. We also will hold our heads high to our present and future customers because of the pride we feel about our successful efforts to provide a great place to work.”



Willamette Landscape Services celebrates its success with the Oregon OSHA consultants that helped the company reach SHARP.

During the five years leading to its SHARP designation, Willamette Landscape Services has reduced the number of lost-time workplace injuries and illnesses by 75 percent. In 2005, the company achieved an injury rate that is 55 percent below the statewide industry average for landscape employers. Willamette Landscape Services employs 60 people.

“The SHARP process has helped us become a better company,” Triplett said. “As any owner, manager, supervisor, or employee knows, there are a million factors

SHARP is a recognition program that provides an incentive and solutions for Oregon employers to work with their employees to find and correct hazards, develop and implement effective safety and health programs, continuously improve, and become self-sufficient in managing occupational safety and health issues. Currently, 108 employers in Oregon participate in SHARP — are you the next one?

There’s more information about SHARP on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orsosha.org, under “Consultations.”

Oregon OSHA helps employers speak the language of safety and health

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is committed to helping Oregon employers provide vital safety and health information to workers whose primary language is not English. Oregon OSHA has developed several resources in Spanish to promote safe work practices.

In 2003, Latino workers comprised nearly 10 percent of the Oregon labor force, up from 3 percent in 1990. According

to the Oregon Employment Department, Oregon's Latino labor force grew almost three times as fast as the U.S. average between 1990 and 2003, from 49,000 to 181,000 — a 269 percent increase.

According to the 2000 Census, 34 percent of the Latino population in Oregon older than 5 spoke little or no English, a challenge that can serve as a barrier to employment in many industries and oc-

cupations, and creates a greater demand for providing important safety and health information in a language other than English.

A key element of Oregon OSHA's safety and health outreach to workers whose primary language is Spanish is the PESO program (Programa en Español de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo de OR-OSHA).

The PESO program consists of three main elements:

Online safety and health glossary

The Oregon OSHA Web site provides a glossary of 30,000 Spanish/English and English/Spanish occupational safety and health terms. This glossary is designed for employers and Spanish speakers as a tool to develop and deliver safety and health training. The glossary can be accessed on Oregon OSHA's Web site: www.orosha.org.

Safety Training and Your Multicultural Workforce

Oregon OSHA offers the four-hour workshop "Safety Training and Your Multicultural Workforce." This

workshop is designed for employers, supervisors, foremen, and leadworkers. In this workshop, attendees learn how to develop a safety culture with a multilingual and multicultural workforce. The focus is on overcoming language and cultural barriers to form an effective safety training team.

Bilingual training modules

These modules have been designed to make it simple for employers to train their employees. Each page of the training curriculum is identical, in English and Spanish — English text on the left-facing page with the Spanish text on the mirroring right-facing page. Each module is designed as a 30- to 60-min-

ute program that can easily be taught on site. "Tailgate sheets," summarizing key points for quick reference on the job, accompany the modules.

- Accident Investigation
- Biological Hazards
- Cultures, Languages, and Safety
- Excavations
- Fall Protection
- Hazard Communication
- Hazard Identification
- Hazardous Energy Control
- Industrial Vehicles
- Machine Safeguarding
- Manual Material Handling
- Occupational Health
- Portable Ladders
- Safety Committees
- Scaffolds

The modules are available at Oregon OSHA's Web site: www.orosha.org.

Oregon OSHA's Spanish training resources are expanding in fall 2006 with two additional workshops:

• Four-hour Spanish language workshops

Beginning later this year, Oregon OSHA plans to offer Spanish versions of the popular Fall Protection, Manual Material Handling, and Hazard Communication training workshops. These workshops are intended to assist employers with training their limited-English-speaking (Spanish-speaking) supervisors, foremen, and leadworkers. The classes will be offered at regularly scheduled locations throughout Oregon and, on a limited basis by special request, at an employer's worksite.

• Train-the-Trainer workshop in Spanish

Early next year, OR-OSHA will begin offering an eight-hour "train-the-trainer" workshop in Spanish. Through this workshop, attendees will gain basic knowledge and skills in the nine-step process of developing and presenting safety training, including preparing lesson plans, using tools and techniques for effective adult learning, and effective on-the-job training processes.

Oregon OSHA offers many Spanish-language resources, including the PESO program, on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org.

Additional information about Oregon's workforce is available from the Oregon Employment Department, on the Web at www.qualityinfo.org.

Safety and health leadership: moving forward at GOSH 2007

The 2007 Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference is just a few months away!



"Safety and Health Leadership: Moving Forward" is the theme for the 2007 event. More than 30 full-day workshops and 80 single-topic classes are scheduled during the four-day conference to educate managers and workers about workplace safety and health issues. The 2007 conference, set for March 12-15 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, marks the 30th Oregon Governor's conference since the event's inception in 1944. Leadership Consultant Robert Pater will open the conference as the keynote speaker.

Know a safety or health professional who deserves recognition? Nominate them for a GOSH award!

Award nomination forms for the 2007 GOSH Conference are available on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org/conferences, or the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers Web site, www.assecwc.org.

Completed nomination forms must be received by Oct. 20, 2006. Nominations are reviewed by an awards committee made up of safety professionals from a diverse mix of occupations, including health care, risk management, small business, public districts, trade unions, utilities, and state government.

Organizations, businesses, and individuals making extraordinary contributions to workplace safety and health in Oregon deserve recognition. Oregon OSHA, in collaboration with the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, provides an opportunity to recognize safety and health leaders with awards during the 2007 GOSH conference.

Awards will be presented in four categories: Employers, Safety Committees, Associations, and Individuals. Private-sector and public-sector employers are eligible. Nominations for awards are open in the following areas:

Employers:

- Up to 30 employees
- 31 to 99 employees
- 100 to 299 employees
- 300 to 999 employees
- 1,000 or more employees

Safety Committees:

- Up to 30 employees
- 31 to 99 employees
- 100 to 299 employees
- 300 to 999 employees
- 1,000 or more employees

Note: Seasonal employers and temporary agencies may use the average number of employees for the appropriate category.

Associations:

Recognizes outstanding achievement in enhancing workplace safety and health by an association actively promoting workplace safety and health.

- Associations with dedicated loss control staff resources
- Associations without dedicated loss control staff resources

Individuals:

- Health care professional
- Individual
- Industrial hygienist
- Labor representative
- Safety professional
- Specific project work team



Honoring Excellence: Nicole Robinson, Tiff Smith, and John Kirkpatrick

Oregon Governor Tom McCall once shared his vision of what makes a hero: "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are citizens who say, 'this is my community, and it's my responsibility to make it better.'"

The 2005 GOSH conference recognized "everyday heroes" in 12 categories, including several that focused on recognizing the work of individuals who "go the extra mile" to create safer and healthier workplaces in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Nicole Robinson was recognized with the 2005 conference award honoring industrial hygienists who have made a major contribution to workplace safety in Oregon or southwest Washington. She developed JH Kelly's Respiratory Protection Policy and designed a hearing conservation program that has been implemented company-wide. Robinson holds a master's degree in environmental and occupational science, is a certified OSHA 500 instructor, and conducts many other OSHA-required training programs for JH Kelly.

Tilford "Tiff" Smith received the 2005 conference award recognizing the Oregon or southwest Washington safety professional who has made a major contribution to workplace safety. Smith is a safety and loss control consultant for Associated General Contractors; his territory covers most of southern Oregon.

"The success I have enjoyed in providing services to our members comes from developing relationships based on mutual trust and respect," Smith said. "I enjoy helping employers learn that productivity, quality, and profitability all revolve around safety."

Smith believes strongly in sharing what he knows — he frequently provides training and lectures about safety and health to high school and college students, and routinely assists SAIF Corporation in southwest Oregon with presentations regarding safety and health.

John Kirkpatrick was honored by the 2005 conference in the Labor Representative category. Kirkpatrick serves as business representative for District Council 5 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT).

"Our safety program includes training programs with needs identified in the real world of construction workplaces," Kirkpatrick said. "Our 15 contractors and over 500 employees encounter every kind of challenge in terms of safety and health issues on a daily basis. Their collective experience is communicated back to the joint committee, which then responds by designing appropriate training curriculums."

Kirkpatrick also serves on the Oregon OSHA Safe Employment Training Advisory Committee, the Management-Labor Advisory Committee for Workers' Compensation, the Oregon OSHA Partnership Committee, and the Oregon Labor Safety and Health Education Program Advisory Committee for the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center.

The GOSH conference, presented in odd-numbered years, is a collaborative effort of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) and the American Society of Safety Engineers, Columbia-Willamette Chapter (ASSE). For additional information about the awards nomination process or the 2007 GOSH conference, contact the Conferences section of Oregon OSHA, (503) 378-3272, or e-mail Oregon.GOSH@state.or.us.



Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded for 2006

Four Oregon students received Workers' Memorial Scholarship awards presented by 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 plans on attending Portland State University in the fall, where she intends to double-major in pre-med biology and psychology. (\$1,000 award)
- **Annette 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)



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

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 for workers' compensation benefits has been accepted. The Workers' Memorial Scholarship is open to high school graduates, graduating high school seniors, GED recipients, or current college undergraduates or graduate students. The scholarship awards are funded by a Department of Consumer and Business Services account that uses interest earned from Oregon OSHA civil penalties. The 1991 Legislature established the Workers' Memorial Scholarship at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO, with support from Associated Oregon Industries.

More information available on Oregon OSHA's Web site

Oregon OSHA has improved how information is presented on its Web site, www.orosha.org, to make it easier for customers to get the information they need. The changes are subtle, designed to blend with the Department of Consumer and Business Services and Oregon.gov Web sites, but they improve site navigation and overall user convenience.

Some of the improvements:

Quick links: Many pages now feature, on the top right side, quick links to related topics. This is in addition to the left-side navigation links common to all Oregon OSHA Web pages. Quick links are topic specific, and are selected to help users easily navigate to the information they are seeking. For example, the Consultation page features quick links to the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) pages, to frequently asked questions about consultation services, and to the Oregon OSHA reports and statistics page. The Education page, meanwhile, features quick links for requesting on-site training, to the Worksite Redesign page, and the Young Worker Program page, among others.

Improved navigation links: The "navigation bar" on the left side of every page now features fewer links to allow users to get to the most popular pages quickly and easily. Once at those pages, quick links guide users to specific pages.

FAQs: New frequently asked questions (FAQ) pages answer common queries about Oregon OSHA's services. FAQ pages were developed for Oregon OSHA in general, the Oregon OSHA Resource Center and video library, consultation services, recordkeeping, and education.

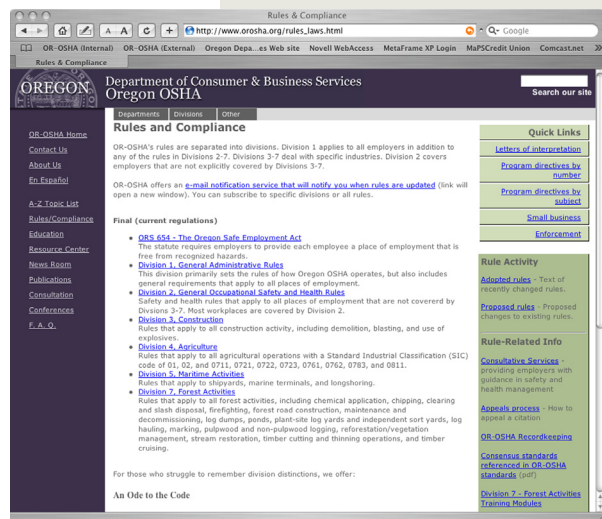
Fatality reports and statistics: The Oregon OSHA Web site now features a page that includes up-to-date information on workplace fatalities and serious accidents in Oregon, a first for Oregon OSHA. The page includes links to illustrated accident and fatality reports and a variety of statistics and reports. A new reports and statistical research information page provides links to a wide variety of data on occupational illness and injury, inspection activity, enforcement, and workers' compensation.

Hazard alert movies:

New animated and narrated slide shows using Flash (tm) technology show how selected workplace accidents happen and how they can be prevented.

A-Z topics: Because information is scattered through a plethora of Oregon OSHA rules, publications, letters of interpretation, videos, and other materials, the Web site now features pages that link together all the information on a given topic. A customer can start at the A-Z Topics index, select one of the 56 topics, and is taken to a page that lists all of Oregon OSHA's information on that topic. The topic "Electrical," for example, includes links to three training workshops, a hazard alert, 23 letters of interpretation, four program directives, three publications, 25 rules, a self-inspection checklist, 43 videos, and a related link.

Improved contact information: Now there's a single page with e-mail addresses and phone numbers for technical information, appeals, education, enforcement, news media information, conferences, consultations, and partnership programs. The contact information continues to be available on other pages as well; the revamped Contact Us page is designed to be a one-stop shop for users who simply want to know how to reach the right person.



Snapshot of sample Web page showing most of the new features.

The Oregon OSHA Web site has almost 600 HTML Web pages and thousands of support documents available as PDF or Word files. The Web site is visited about 11,000 times every day, amounting to 4 million visits each year.

To see the changes, visit www.orosha.org. Oregon OSHA is asking Web site customers to take a brief survey about what they think of the changes. A link to the survey is at the bottom of most pages on the site; Oregon OSHA will use the survey data to make continued improvements to the Web site.

New report examines Oregon workplace deaths in 2004

The Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (OR-FACE) program recently released its 2004 Annual Report via the OR-FACE Web site. OR-FACE investigates work-related fatalities that are caused by a traumatic injury when the injury occurs in Oregon.

OR-FACE, which is sponsored by The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), began recording traumatic occupational fatalities in 2003. Oregon is one of 15 states in the nation to participate in a fatality surveillance and assessment program sponsored by NIOSH.

The 2004 OR-FACE Annual Report and other OR-FACE research information are available at the OR-FACE Web site: www.ohsu.edu/croet/face.

NIOSH funds OR-FACE in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Human Services. The Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) at Oregon Health and Science University administers the program.

Portland Building and City Hall install AEDs to improve safety

Every floor of the Portland Building and Portland's City Hall are now equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AED), and the city is providing training on AED use to employees. The purchase of the 19 AED units follows a national study the City of Portland participated in that measured the life-saving potential and cost effectiveness of public access defibrillation (PAD).

"We know they save lives," said Tom Feely, manager, business operations in the Office of Management and Finance. "During the study period, the city had no incident in which to test the devices, but we have seen others whose lives have been saved because of the public access to these units."

In 2000, 10 AEDs were provided to the City of Portland as a part of a national 30-month study conducted by the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. The AEDs were deployed at City Hall, the Portland Building, and Portland Parks and Development Services at 1900 West Fourth Ave.

The city invested \$24,000 in the 19 AED units in the Portland Building and City Hall. The cost of the units has decreased dramatically, from an average of \$3,500 per unit in 1999 to \$1,200 today.

About 335,000 people a year in the United States die of coronary heart disease without being hospitalized or admitted to an emergency room. Most of these sudden deaths are caused by cardiac arrest. About one-fourth of these deaths from sudden cardiac arrest occur outside of the home — in public places.

Brain death and permanent death start to occur in just four to six minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest. The cure for most cases of sudden cardiac arrest is immediate treatment with a defibrillator that shocks the heart out of a fatal rhythm, allowing normal healthy rhythm to resume.

VPP welcomes two new Star employers

The Oregon OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) continues to expand, presenting two sites with VPP Star work-site flags during August. Currently, 12 worksites throughout the state participate in VPP.

Employees and management, including Masterbrand's national CEO Rich Forbes, celebrated Masterbrand Cabinet's Hillsboro factory achieving VPP Star recognition on Aug. 9. Masterbrand Cabinets employs 250 people at its Hillsboro plant, which manufactures kitchen cabinets for nationwide distribution. During the past three years, the Hillsboro factory has maintained a workplace injury and illness average that is 37 percent below the statewide industry average for cabinet manufacturers.

"Masterbrand has reached a level of safety and health excellence that is reserved for a select group of employers," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "VPP demonstrates that the employer has made a commitment to becoming self-sufficient for its safety and health needs. The program provides employers with a blueprint for success by working with Oregon OSHA, and when we work together we can accomplish incredible things to make workplaces safer."

To achieve VPP status, a worksite must have a three-year average injury and illness rate 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.

Masterbrand becomes the second VPP employer in Hillsboro. A federal facility, the United States Postal Service Evergreen DCU in Hillsboro, participates in the national Voluntary Protection Program coordinated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

In late August, Marvin Wood Products in Baker City replaced its VPP Merit flag with a VPP Star flag. After joining SHARP in 1999, Marvin Wood Products became a "VPP Merit" worksite in March 2003, and began the process of working toward "VPP Star" status. "Merit" sites

accomplish most of the safety and health management principles of the Voluntary Protection Program and require additional work to reach "Star" status. The company employs 260 people at its Baker City plant, which manufactures dimension-cut lumber. During the past three years, Marvin Wood Products has maintained a workplace injury and illness average — for incidents that cause a day of work to be lost or restricted — that is 60 percent below the statewide industry average for lumber manufacturers.

"Marvin Wood Products has made great improvements for safety in an industry where injuries were once — wrongly — considered a part of doing business," Wood said. "Through its involvement in VPP, this mill has committed to protecting its workers from hazards that can be all too common in the lumber industry: becoming caught in machines, being struck by equipment, or being over-exposed to noise and dust. VPP brings management, labor, and government together to make workplaces safer."

Evaluators review 19 program elements during the approval process, including management commitment to safety and health, employee participation in safety, workplace self-inspection, providing safety and health training, emergency programs and drills, and preventive maintenance.

VPP participants are removed from Oregon OSHA's routine scheduled inspection list for the duration of their participation. Employees do not lose any rights under the program. Oregon OSHA still investigates accidents, formal complaints, and chemical spills.



Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood receives an explanation of Masterbrand Cabinet's production process from manager John Alcala.



Employees of Masterbrand in Hillsboro work together to craft kitchen cabinets one step at a time. Here, a worker is fine-sanding a cabinet door.

Additional Oregon OSHA VPP sites are AmeriTies West LLC in The Dalles, BOC Edwards Medford Electronic Materials in White City, GE Security in Tualatin, Georgia-Pacific Toledo pulp and paper mill, Georgia-Pacific Philomath mill, Georgia-Pacific Coos Bay mill, Impregilo-Healy Joint Venture in Portland, PW Eagle in Eugene, and Timber Products Spectrum Division in White City.

SHARP expands at PGE and City of Portland

An agreement signed in August recognizes Portland General Electric's (PGE's) commitment to workplace safety by allowing the company to complete the initial evaluation process for Oregon OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). The collaboration agreement between the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) and PGE will promote improved workplace safety for PGE's power generation plants.

SHARP is a recognition program that provides an incentive and solutions for Oregon employers to work with their employees to find and correct hazards, develop and implement effective safety and health programs, continuously improve, and become self-sufficient in managing occupational safety and health issues. Currently, 108 employers in Oregon participate in SHARP.

The agreement places responsibility for the program's initial safety and health evaluations on specially trained PGE employees. These evaluations set a baseline and determine the readiness of a PGE site to participate in Oregon OSHA's SHARP program.

"PGE should be commended for promoting safer workplaces," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "The goal of promoting employer self-sufficiency is to have the employer think about safety and health management in the workplace before injuries and illnesses occur. This agreement empowers PGE staff to train others within the company on safety and health management and the improvements needed to reach SHARP status. PGE benefits from safer workplaces, and Oregon OSHA is able to commit existing consultation resources to help other employers in Oregon."

Four PGE generating plants — the Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric Project near Madras, the Beaver Plant near Clatskanie, and the Coyote Springs and Boardman Power Plants in Morrow County — already have received SHARP recognition. Portland General Electric is a fully integrated electric utility that serves 791,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Oregon.

"Safety is crucial to our business," said Peggy Fowler, CEO and president of PGE. "Our employees at every level take that fact with them to work every day, so we're pleased that we've been able to forge a real partnership with Oregon OSHA to deepen and expand our participation in the SHARP program."

Oregon OSHA also entered into a collaboration agreement with the City of Portland to promote expanded involvement with SHARP by city bureaus. Involvement in SHARP has already improved safety for City of Portland bureaus. The city's Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant reduced its lost-workday injury cases 79 percent and reduced annual workers' compensation costs by 64 percent through ongoing collaboration with Oregon OSHA's consultation program and SHARP. According to the city's Bureau of General Services Risk Management Division, the City of Portland reduced the number of workers' compensation injury claims 45 percent from 1996 to 2005 through improved safety and health management practices — that reduction translates into 200 fewer workers being seriously injured in 2005 than 10 years previous.



Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood and PGE Chief Executive Officer Peggy Fowler sign a collaboration agreement to help PGE power sites enter the SHARP program.

Questions?

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

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Employers will pay less for workers' compensation in 2007

Oregon will reduce the workers' compensation "pure" premium rate by 2.1 percent for 2007, Governor Ted Kulongoski announced Sept. 27, keeping alive Oregon's streak of 16 years without raising the rate, and strengthening the state's reputation of keeping workers' compensation costs low.

"This is good news for employers, and great news for our overall economy," the Governor said. "But it's great news for Oregon's workforce, as well. Lower workers' compensation costs help us attract and retain businesses, and help businesses create and retain jobs. And that's what puts more Oregonians to work."

Department of Consumer and Business Services Director Cory Streisinger said recent legislation has provided higher disability benefits to workers and greater protections during independent medical exams.

"We continue to work with the Management-Labor Advisory Committee to find additional ways to improve the system," Streisinger said.

The Governor said that employers, employees, state government, and workers' compensation insurers have all worked cooperatively to adopt measures and programs that return injured workers to work faster and manage claims more efficiently and quickly.



"This is a credit to Oregon employers and employees who work together to maintain safe work environments," he said.

In 2007, Oregon's employers will pay 40.6 percent less per \$100 of payroll for workers' compensation insurance than employers in California, and 9.4 percent less than those in Washington State. Since

1990, cuts in premium rates have saved Oregon's employers a record \$12.8 billion. For more information on the 2007 workers' compensation rate announcement, visit the Department of Consumer and Business Services Web site, www.dcbs.oregon.gov.

"This is a credit to Oregon employers and employees who work together to maintain safe work environments"

– Governor Ted Kulongoski

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