

# WHAT TO EXPECT

from an Oregon OSHA inspection

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**4<sup>th</sup> Annual**

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## RESOURCE

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# Administrator's message: Oregon OSHA programs feel impact of tight economy

By Michael Wood

**A**s have most employers, both private and public, the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), of which Oregon OSHA is a part, has been facing a considerably tighter budget over the past two years. Those operations funded by the assessment on workers' compensation premiums have seen revenues drop markedly as payrolls have shrunk – with high-hazard (and therefore high-premium) industries hit particularly hard.

Programs throughout DCBS made adjustments to our spending plans in early 2009 to address the anticipated revenue shortfall. At the time, we hoped that those reductions – which included the elimination of a number of both vacant and filled positions throughout DCBS – would be sufficient. However, since that time, our projections have changed in two significant ways. First, our revenue has lagged significantly behind even our 2009 expectations. Second, our analysis of the future has (consistent with the overall economic framework) been adjusted to expect that revenue shortfall to be even longer than we had previously expected.

You can find more detailed information about the drop in revenues and the projected fund balances on the website of the workers' compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee at [http://egov.oregon.gov/DCBS/MLAC/wc\\_budget.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/DCBS/MLAC/wc_budget.shtml). But in the briefest terms, we now expect to have even less revenue, and we expect those restrictions on our revenue to last even longer than we did a year ago.

Given the size of the shortfall, it is clear to those of us at DCBS that increased revenue cannot address the problem alone (nor can the shortfall be solved entirely by expenditure reductions, without serious damage to the successes of the Oregon workers' compensation system that we celebrated last month). As a result, we are

making several additional expenditure reductions throughout the various workers' compensation programs. As part of those reductions, Oregon OSHA is taking the following actions:

We have effectively "frozen" five positions that recently became vacant, including one field consultant and two field enforcement staff (one in safety and one in health), and we will be filling another position at only half-time. In combination with prior decisions over the past 15 months, this brings the total number of vacancies we are holding open within Oregon OSHA alone to 22.5, or just over 10 percent of our current authorized staffing level of 222. Those vacancies include seven of 54 authorized safety field enforcement staff (just under 13 percent), four of 28 authorized health field enforcement staff (just over 14 percent), and four of 31 field consultants (just under 13 percent).

After discussions with the Safety Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee (SEETAC), we have suspended the training grants program for the remainder of the current biennium. This program is funded as part of our overall expenditure limitation, just as our other activities are. We have not taken similar action in relation to the Worker Memorial Scholarship program, which is paid for out of funds specifically set aside for that purpose.

Several weeks ago, I notified eight existing Oregon OSHA staff that we will be eliminating their positions. I also informed three staff that we will reduce their positions to half-time.

continued on page 4



Michael Wood, Administrator

**Administrator's message,** *continued from page 3*

Combined with the reductions already in place, that will reduce our current staffing by 32 full-time positions, which represents more than 14 percent of our current authorized staffing.

Although none of the layoffs involve further reductions in field consultation, safety enforcement, or health enforcement, all three programs will be affected by a reduction in the limited administrative support and training they already receive.

Three of the affected staff (and one of the newly frozen vacancies) are trainers from the Public Education unit. We will be discontinuing almost all scheduled "classroom" training and using the remaining four Public Education staff to accelerate our conversion to online training. We have been moving in that direction as a supplement to our existing in-person classes – under this plan, we will convert our courses to online courses more quickly, and those courses will largely replace our in-person training modules.

The reductions also will include a number of administrative and customer service reductions, including one staff person from the Oregon OSHA Resource Center.

We are also evaluating potential reductions in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), including a moratorium on new applicants and options for reducing the program cost involved in recertifying existing sites. No decisions have yet been made in relation to VPP, and we look forward to input from various interested parties as part of those discussions.

As you no doubt realize, these reductions are not easy ones for us to make. I firmly believe

that the broad range of Oregon OSHA's activities is one of the state's real strengths, and one of the reasons that we have been able to celebrate 20 years of success in controlling injuries and reducing workers' compensation costs. While the cuts we are making leave most of our activities in place, they will result in dramatic shifts in some areas – and they will restrict our ability to provide those services that are otherwise unaffected. They also will limit our ability to respond to new opportunities for innovation and partnership. However, cuts are necessary. In response, we have tried to design a package of cuts that does the least damage to the program of which we are all justifiably proud.

The good news is that, even with these staffing reductions, we will continue to maintain a large enforcement and educational presence in the highest hazard workplaces. And the decisions we make now to address the revenue shortfall will not all translate to budget reductions in the future – we expect to be able to fill frozen positions and perhaps to restore certain other cuts in the years to come.

These are difficult choices. But I recognize that employers and workers throughout the state have been faced with similar difficult choices. I welcome your advice and counsel as we determine the best way to maintain Oregon OSHA and Oregon's successful approach to worker health and safety as the state continues its slow recovery from these difficult economic times.

If you have any advice, questions, or comments about this information and the decisions we face, please let me know. You can reach me most easily by e-mail at [Michael.Wood@state.or.us](mailto:Michael.Wood@state.or.us).





**“Shine a light on safety”**



*Thank you*  
to all the organizations who participated  
in Safety Break for Oregon 2010,  
particularly the following employers  
who signed up online.

American Red Cross  
Applied Physics Technologies  
Aramark Uniform Services  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
ATI Wah Chang  
Brentwood Corp.  
Carl Diebold Lumber  
Cascade Warehouse Companies  
Chuck E. Cheese's - Salem  
Cintas Corp.  
City of Milwaukie  
CH2MHILL  
Comcast  
Covanta Marion, Inc.  
Danner, Inc./LaCrosse Footwear Inc.  
Douglas County Health & Social Services  
Emerick Construction  
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Home Builders Association of Marion & Polk Counties  
Interstate Roofing, Inc.  
Johnson Air Products  
Laird Plastics Inc.  
Lane Transit District  
McCormack Construction Co.  
Moonstruck Chocolate Company

Oak Lodge Sanitary District  
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Oregon Housing and Community Services  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Oregon SHARP Alliance  
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Performance Contracting Inc.  
Planar Systems, Inc.  
Portland General Electric  
Portland Water Bureau  
Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital  
PV Powered  
RDO-Calbee LLC  
Redwood Safety Association  
Reese Electric, Inc.  
Reitmeier Mechanical  
Robben Heating, Air Conditioning  
Sandvick Medical Solutions  
Simple Treasures In Home Care  
Slayden Construction Group, Inc.  
Spartek Industries  
Technology Conservation Group  
That Girl Vancouver  
The Corvallis Clinic  
The Oregon Clinic (Gresham Cardio)  
TRISTAR Risk Management  
Umpqua Community Development  
Waste Management – Arlington  
Western Valley Cutstock Inc.  
Weyerhaeuser – Springfield Timberlands  
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community



## WHAT TO EXPECT from an Oregon OSHA inspection

### Go behind the scenes

By Melanie Mesaros

No business ever knows when Oregon OSHA is coming to do an inspection. That's because it's against the law to give prior notice.

"We want to see people working and doing what they would on any normal day," said Sam Drill, Oregon OSHA safety enforcement manager.

Even though employers don't know that the inspection is coming, there are a few things they can do to make the inspection process go smoother.

**"The employer should be cooperative and communicative, in order to take full advantage of the inspection process."**

**– Ken Langley**

"The employer should be cooperative and communicative, in order to take full advantage of the inspection process," said Ken Langley, a Portland-based compliance officer. "There is almost always something to learn."

All Oregon OSHA compliance officers carry ID and will present it, along with a business card, at what's referred to as the "opening" of an inspection. At this time, the compliance officer will collect basic information about the company, which may include how many workers



Ken Langley (top) and all Oregon OSHA inspectors carry ID on inspections.



1. Prior to the opening conference, the compliance officer will seek out a manager or person in charge. 2-3. Hazards are identified during the walk-through portion of the inspection. 4. A review of company records, such as the material safety data sheets (MSDS) shown here, is common during an inspection. 5. Private interviews with employees are also part of the inspection process.

are at a location and details about the type of work done, and they will try to make contact with the manager in charge.

Next, compliance officers will conduct a walk-through of the facility and look for hazards that could cause an injury or accident.

“When I identify hazards, I always explain to the employer, not only what the problem is, but also how the hazard could cause an injury, and if possible, how the rule itself came to be,” said Langley. “Historically, it is almost always because of severe injuries or fatal events. Even very well-informed employers can learn something new since we see such a variety of workplaces and conditions.”

In cases of extreme danger, a work site or piece of equipment can be “red tagged,” which prohibits the employer from continuing to work with the equipment or at the location. But most commonly, a compliance officer will ask employers to correct a hazard on the spot or set an abatement date.

“For a serious violation, which carries a \$300 penalty, correcting the violation before the end of the inspection can reduce the penalty by 30 percent,” said Langley. “It is worth nearly \$100 for an employer to take immediate corrective action. More importantly, an active hazard, which could potentially injure an employee, no longer presents a threat to anyone.”

Employee interviews are also part of the inspection process. Oregon OSHA will talk privately with employees in various positions to get a better understanding of the organization’s health and safety program and what their day-to-day work entails.





At the close of the inspection, the compliance officer may review company records (see list), make recommendations, or offer insights into a company's safety program. Follow-up inspections are done on approximately 10 percent of the inspections completed each year.

"I do follow-up inspections at workplaces where I find multiple serious violations in order to ensure the hazards are abated and stay abated," Langley said. "We also do follow-ups when we do not receive a letter of corrective action from the employer, because we must be certain the hazards have been corrected."

A "Letter of Corrective Action" requires the employer to detail how it has fixed violations. If Oregon OSHA issues a citation to a company, it will be sent via certified mail to the employer between two weeks and

Langley documents a hazard by taking a photo during the inspection.



### **This list covers common recordkeeping items that might be requested during an inspection:**

- Material safety data sheets (MSDS)
- Forklift training certification program
- Crane inspection records
- Safety committee minutes
- PPE hazard assessment
- Confined space entry permits
- OSHA 300 log  
(injury and illness recordkeeping)

180 days after the inspection. The citation will list each rule violation, an abatement date, and a dollar amount based on the hazard's severity and probability (e.g., how frequently employees were exposed). It may require a Letter of Corrective Action.

### **When do employers have to report an accident?**

The rule requires employers to notify Oregon OSHA of an overnight hospitalization within 24 hours. A fatality or catastrophe must be reported within eight hours. It's important to note that just notifying your workers' compensation carrier is not enough.



Employers have the right to appeal Oregon OSHA citations, with the first step being an informal hearing. If a resolution can't be reached during the informal hearing, the matter is heard before an administrative law judge. Employees have the right to appeal the amount of time Oregon OSHA has given the employer to correct the violations.

"I've been at this for over 20 years and I still see the same hazards being cited that can contribute to the death or serious injury of an employee," said Drill. "If we could get to a point where we seldom saw the most commonly cited serious hazards, we would be sending a lot more employees home to their families in one piece at the end of the day."



Langley checks out a foot pedal connected to a piece of machinery during his walk-through.

## How do employers get inspected?

Oregon OSHA inspectors work from a list of companies that range from high- to low-hazard industries. The higher hazard workplaces are inspected with more frequency. The list was previously based on workers' compensation claims, but today it is generated by the type of work being done in a business. Construction and logging are exceptions and are still based on claims.

Inspections can also be initiated if an inspector sees an imminent danger or hazard that relates to an emphasis program. For instance, fall protection, silica exposure, and combustible dust are currently covered by emphasis programs. Complaints, accidents, and referrals can also prompt inspections.

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**"We also do follow-ups when we do not receive a letter of corrective action from the employer, because we must be certain the hazards have been corrected."**

**– Ken Langley**

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# Oregon OSHA's most-cited rules

By Ellis Brasch

Oregon OSHA's safety and health standards include more than 1,000 rules —1,073 the last time I counted them. Some of these rules lead quiet lives, rarely cited or referenced. For example, Oregon OSHA compliance officers don't issue many citations for **Cotton dust** [1910.1043] because there are few workplaces in Oregon where workers are exposed to airborne cotton fibers. However, other Oregon OSHA rules do get attention because they're cited so often. For the fiscal year ending in September 2009, Oregon OSHA compliance officers cited 327 of those 1,073 rules.

Here is the top 10:

1. Safety committees and safety meetings 437-001-0765
2. Hazard communication 1910.1200
3. Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use 1910.305
4. Portable fire extinguishers 437-002-0187
5. General fall protection 437-003-501
6. Respiratory protection 1910.134
7. PPE – general requirements 1910.132
8. Electrical – general requirements 1910.303
9. Abrasive wheel machinery 1910.215
10. Rules for all workplaces 437-001-0760

People like top 10 lists because they convey a sort of instant knowledge about a subject. But what does this list tell you about hazards *at your workplace*? Are these the rules that you need to know about? If all workplaces were alike – same industry, same number of employees, same work processes, and the same hazards, then the answer would be “yes.”

**But workplaces aren't identical.** Some rules have top-10 status because they do apply to hazards in many workplaces. For example, *Hazard communication* (1910.1200) and *Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use* (1910.305) have been among Oregon OSHA's 10 most-cited rules since 1995. But the devil is in the details. If you want a better understanding of “most-cited” rules, you have to get closer to the source. Here's an example: Consider the most frequently cited rules (for the same period) by size of firm and three industry sectors: construction, manufacturing, and services.



Most frequently cited rules are meaningful only when you consider what makes workplaces unique – especially hazards.

## Most frequently cited rules by size of firm and industry sector

Size of firm	Construction sector	Manufacturing sector	Services sector
1-19 employees	General fall protection 437-003-501	Hazard communication 1910.1200	Hazard communication 1910.1200
20-49 employees	General fall protection 437-003-501	Safety committees and safety meetings 437-001-0765	Safety committees and safety meetings 437-001-0765
50-99 employees	Lead 1926.62	General requirements for all machines 1910.212	Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use 1910.305
100-249 employees	General fall protection 437-003-501	Permit-required confined spaces 1910.146	Safety committees and safety meetings 437-001-0765
250+ employees	None cited	Abrasive wheel machinery 1910.215	Electrical - general requirements 1910.303

Firm size and the industry sector can make a difference in the hazards that compliance officers find and the rules they cite for violations. The take-home point here is that “most frequently cited rules” are meaningful only when you consider the additional characteristics that make workplaces unique – especially *hazards*. If you’re an employer, you don’t want to rely on a top 10 list to tell you “what Oregon OSHA is focusing on.” And you probably want to avoid contributing a citation from your workplace to the list. Oregon OSHA’s compliance officers “cite what they find” in enforcement visits, so the best strategy for avoiding a citation is to keep your workplace hazard free. And, to make sure that your recordkeeping, training, and safety programs are current.



## What if you don’t know which Oregon OSHA rules to follow?

Here are three suggestions:

- 1 Do a hazard assessment.**  
What types of hazards does your workplace have? Look at work processes, equipment, and facilities to find hazards. When you know what your hazards are, it’s easier to determine rules you must comply with.
- 2 Request an Oregon OSHA consultation.** Oregon OSHA’s safety and health consultants can help you identify workplace hazards and tell you the rules you need to know to keep your workplace safe.
- 3 Ask your insurance carrier for help.** Your carrier can explain the rules that apply to your workplace to help you identify hazards, and work with you to develop an effective safety and health program.

Of course, the best rule to follow is to find and fix the hazards in your workplace so you’ll never see it on a top 10 list.



## Accident Report

Accident type | Caught in/fatality

Industry | Solid waste collection

Employee job title | Sanitation worker



The employee was operating a side-loading Heil series 7000 garbage truck on a residential route, collecting recycled material such as newspaper, cardboard, plastics and tin cans. Prior to the accident, the employee was seen by a local resident climbing up on the side of the truck and looking into the compactor box. A few minutes later, the resident noticed the driver on top of the truck and he was not moving. He went to the truck and found the employee unconscious, caught halfway out of the compactor box. Emergency personnel responded and pronounced the employee dead on arrival.

There were no witnesses to the accident but it appears the employee entered the compactor box to clear some debris that blocked the ram interlock, preventing the ram from returning to the front of the compactor box. When the debris was cleared from the ram interlock, the ram started moving to the front of the compactor box. The employee was not able to get out of the box before he was crushed between the front of the compactor box and the ram. When emergency personnel arrived, the truck was running and the compactor access door was open.

During the investigation, it was discovered the interlock device on the compactor access door was not working. This interlock is designed to disable the ram when the door is open. Since this interlock was not working, the ram started moving as soon as the employee cleared the jam in the compactor box. Through interviews with other drivers, it was discovered employees have to get into the compactor box two or three times during their route to clear debris from around the ram return interlock. Some drivers said they shut off the engine on the truck before they went into the compactor box and others said they had gone in without shutting the truck off.



◀ Inside of the compactor showing debris blocking the ram interlock

Inside of the compactor box ▶



## Items cited:

**29 CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(i):** Procedures were not developed, documented, and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy when employees were engaged in maintenance and service of equipment.

**29 CFR 1910.147(c)(7)(i)(A):** Each authorized employee did not receive training in the recognition or applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy available in the workplace, and the methods and means necessary for energy isolation and control.

**29 CFR 1910.147(c)(6)(i):** The employer did not conduct periodic inspections of the energy control procedure at least annually to ensure that the procedure and requirements of the lock out/tag out standard were being followed.

**OAR 437-001-0760(1)(a):** The employer did not see that workers were properly instructed and supervised in the safe operation of any machinery, tools, equipment, process, or practice which they were authorized to use or apply.

## VPP company hosts HAZMAT training exercise

Marvin Wood Products in Baker City, a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) STAR Site, played host to an industrial HAZMAT training exercise last month in partnership with the Baker County Emergency Management and local fire agencies.

A training grant, both from the Office of State Fire Marshal and a donation from the Randall E. Carpenter Foundation, allowed Baker County fire agencies to work directly with Marvin Wood Products to specifically focus on hazardous materials incidents that can impact Baker County communities.

Marvin Wood Products had 24 staff members participating in the exercise, alongside the 11 local public safety agencies. Classroom training was held the day before a field exercise was carried out at the company's Baker City plant.

"This event gave us the opportunity to not only test and improve our internal procedures in an emergency, but provided a unique opportunity for the public and private sector to partner making Marvin Wood Products a safer place to work and Baker County a safer place to live," said Ray Illingsworth, safety coordinator at Marvin Wood Products.



Local fire fighters teamed up with Marvin Wood Products to practice an industrial disaster.



### Nominations for the 2011 GOSH Awards

are now being accepted in categories for organizations and individuals who make extraordinary contributions to workplace safety and health. Applications are available at [www.oregongosh.com](http://www.oregongosh.com) and must be received by October 28, 2010.



- Workshops
- Sessions
- Exhibits
- Awards

**GOSH 2011 • March 7-10, 2011 • Oregon Convention Center • Portland**



# Governor marks 20th anniversary of historic workers' compensation reforms

Gov. Ted Kulongoski gathered with representatives from Oregon businesses and labor organizations to mark the 20th anniversary of successful reforms to the state's workers' compensation system at a May 3, 2010, event. As a result of the reforms that became law in 1990, on-the-job injury and illness rates in Oregon have decreased 50 percent and workers' compensation costs are down 60 percent over the past 20 years, now among the lowest in the nation.

"Twenty years ago, Oregon's workers' compensation system wasn't working for employees or businesses. But with determination, leadership, and political will, we came together and developed a solution centered on employers and employees with workplace safety at the heart of the system," said Gov. Kulongoski. "Now, 20 years later, we celebrate a system that is working and among the best in the nation."

The need for reform became clear during the 1980s. At that time, Oregon businesses faced some of the highest workers' compensation costs in the country and Oregon workers faced injury and illness rates that, too, were among the highest in the country.

In an effort to reform the system and increase workplace safety, a group of 14 labor and business leaders, including Gov. Kulongoski, who then was serving as the state's insurance commissioner, came together to overhaul the state's workers' compensation system.



Gov. Ted Kulongoski said Oregon's workers' compensation system is one of the best in the country.



These reforms, commonly known as the "Mahonia Hall Reforms" because negotiations took place at the Governor's residence, were passed by the Oregon Legislature on May 7, 1990. As the insurance commissioner, Kulongoski was charged with implementing the reforms.

Workers' compensation premium rates in Oregon have not increased over the past 20 years, a statistic no other state can match. Oregon's return-to-work programs for employees are also nationally known and assist more than 8,000 workers each year.

## ***GOSH Conference dates announced, call for awards***

Mark your calendar for the Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) Conference, to be held March 7-10, 2011, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The largest conference of its kind in the Northwest, themed "Safety: It's a Marathon, Not a Sprint," will feature more than 140 workshops and sessions.

"This event offers managers and employees a chance to hear about the latest safety issues in their field," said Sharell Lien, coordinator of the GOSH Conference. "It's a great value and opportunity to network with other safety and health professionals."

Nominations for the 2011 GOSH Awards are now being accepted in categories for organizations and individuals who make extraordinary contributions to workplace safety and health. Applications are available at [www.oregongosh.com](http://www.oregongosh.com) and must be received by Oct. 28, 2010.

New for 2011 will be a skills demonstration in the Columbia Forklift Challenge. More details about competing in the event will be coming soon. Registration for the conference is expected to open in winter of 2010.

### **Fork in the Road? Choose Safety**



***Featuring nationally acclaimed  
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John Drebing***

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**Eagle Crest Resort • Redmond, Oregon**

**This conference is a joint effort of the Central Oregon Safety & Health Association (COSHA) and Oregon OSHA.**

## Teens learn about trades and construction at hands-on event

Students from schools across Oregon learned about construction, mechanical, utility, and other trades through hands-on demonstrations and workshops at the Women in Trades Career Fair. Held at the NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center in Portland, the event gave teens the chance to meet tradeswomen, use power tools, operate equipment, and learn about apprenticeships.

Victoria Belk, a junior at Thurston High School in Springfield, strapped on a harness and laced up boots to see what it would be like to climb a power pole with a lineman from PGE.

"It's so much fun," she said. "I tried this last year and didn't go very high. I thought, 'This time I am going to the top.' It was exhilarating and fun. You sweat a little."

Laura Garcia from Madras High School tried out some of the other offerings, including operating a jackhammer and moving asphalt to patch a pothole.

"Heavy equipment is fun to work with," Garcia said. "You really feel the power."

At the Oregon OSHA booth, students were invited to spin the wheel of hazards to earn a prize for identifying potential problems.



Victoria Belk, who attends Thurston High School in Springfield, made it to the top of the pole with some help from a Portland General Electric lineman.



Laura Garcia from Madras High School practiced repairing a pothole with some supervision from ODOT.

"The kids were able to learn about safety and health from pictures and they'll be able to take that awareness out into the workplace," said Abby Burnett, an Oregon OSHA compliance officer.

In addition, The Oregon Young Employee Safety ([O\[yes\]](#)) Coalition, which Oregon OSHA is a part of, presented seminars all day on Thursday and Friday to educate students about on-the-job safety and health.



## Bend students win safety video contest

Two Bend students took home first-place honors and \$500 for their public service announcement promoting young worker safety and health. Zack Farrell and Chelsey Hice, both of Summit High School, created the 45-second video titled "Worker Training is Important." With stop-action video effects, the PSA depicts a student worker who doesn't pay attention to her training course and ends up with multiple injuries. Summit High School also won a matching amount of prize money.

### The other winners were:

#### Second place (\$400):

Keoni Campollo, Jonathan Campollo, Caitlin Sanford  
Springfield High School, Springfield  
"Slashed in the Kitchen"

#### Third place (\$300):

Dianne Blackwell, Tyler Arana,  
Springfield High School, Springfield  
"The Perilous Request"



Video contest winner Zack Farrell (left) and his teacher Matt Calanchini of Bend's Summit High School show off award certificates.



Student finalists came together for a screening event in Salem.

The creators of the top videos were presented with their awards during a special screening at the Northern Lights Theatre in Salem. The contest was designed to increase awareness for young people about safety on the job, with the theme of "Save a Friend. Work Safe." Students were judged on creativity, production value, youth appeal, and the overall safety and health message.

All of the winning videos are available for viewing at [www.oroSHA.org/psacontest](http://www.oroSHA.org/psacontest).

The Oregon Young Employee Safety Coalition, Oregon OSHA, SAIF Corporation, American Society of Safety Engineers, and DHS-Public Health Division, Occupational Public Health Program sponsored the contest.

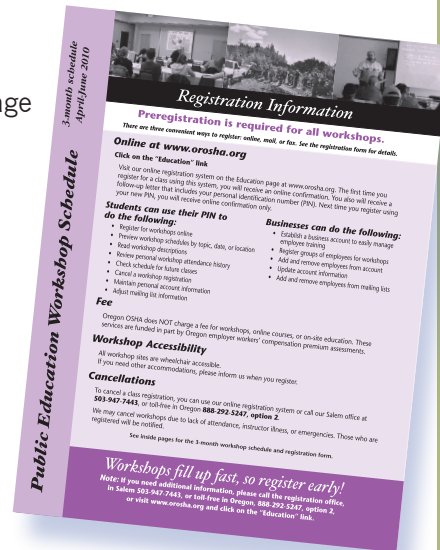
# Public Education to replace most classroom training with online services

As part of recent budget reductions (see Administrator's Message on page 3), most of the classroom and on-site training Oregon OSHA currently provides will be eliminated. It will be replaced with online classes beginning in October 2010.

A limited number of workshops focused on the Worker Protection Standard and the Spanish-language PESO program will continue.

"The transition to online training was already in the works and budget cuts have simply accelerated that timeline," said Jason Jantzi, Oregon OSHA's public education manager. "The materials for our core classes will still be available online."

To sign up for e-mail notifications of workshop updates, go to [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org) and click the "E-mail updates" link in the upper left corner.

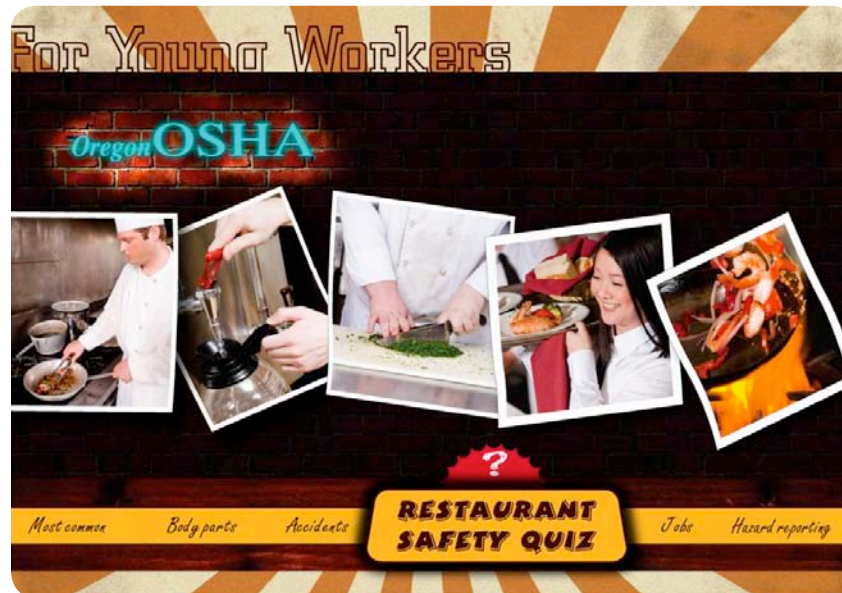


## Interactive quiz unveiled for young restaurant workers

With young workers ending up with the majority of injuries at restaurants, Oregon OSHA developed a colorful, interactive quiz. Enter into café "Oregon OSHA" and answer five questions about top injuries, the most dangerous restaurant jobs, and more.

The quiz also links to other resources that can specifically help workers in the industry. It was designed to be a short, fun quiz that can be used to help train new employees.

To take the quiz, go to [www.orosha.org/youngworker/training/restaurantsafety.html](http://www.orosha.org/youngworker/training/restaurantsafety.html)



## Public forums on Oregon OSHA penalties announced

Oregon OSHA will host a series of statewide public forums to seek input on the agency's penalty structure.

On both the national and state level, there have been suggestions in recent years that OSHA penalties are not being used as effectively as they might to promote health and safety in the workplace. The purpose of the forums will be to discuss what changes might be made to Oregon OSHA penalties in order to respond to these suggestions.

### Forums are scheduled at the following locations:

**June 8, 2010 at 6 p.m**

Blue Mountain Conference Center – La Grande

**June 17, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

Oregon State Capitol Building – Hearing Room C – Salem

**June 28, 2010 at 6 p.m.**

Eugene Public Library – Eugene

**July 12, 2010 at 6 p.m.**

Carnegie Library Building – Large conference room – Medford

**July 13, 2010 at 11 a.m.**

Coos Bay BLM – Conference room A – North Bend

**July 15, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.**

Tualatin Public Library – Community room – Tualatin

**July 27, 2010 at 1 p.m.**

Seaside Public Library – Community room – Seaside

**July 28, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

Deschutes Public Library – Brooks Room – Bend

For a copy of the discussion document and more information, please visit [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org).

Send questions or comments to [orosha.tech@state.or.us](mailto:orosha.tech@state.or.us).



### *Congratulations to these new SHARP companies:*

- Overhead Door Corporation, Sweet Home
- The Corvallis Clinic Inc., Corvallis



# Fallen Oregon workers remembered on Workers Memorial Day

Family members of fallen Oregon workers wiped away tears at the annual Workers Memorial Day ceremony, held outside the Labor and Industries Building on the Capitol Mall on April 28, 2010.

Jennifer Gregerson lost her brother Kevin, a welder, in a 2009 explosion when he was attempting to repair a leak in a steel tank at a company in Boardman.

"I never worried about Kevin," she said. "He was very smart and he could do anything. He was just doing his job."



People in the crowd bow their head during the ceremony.



Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood spoke during the ceremony.

The names of 66 Oregonians, which included eight members of the military, were read at the ceremony. Workers Memorial Day occurs on the anniversary of the passage of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act – this year marking the legislation's 40th anniversary. Remarks from Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood and Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain rounded out the ceremony.

"Our presence here today is a starting point or reminder," Wood said. "Our presence here today needs to be more than mourning and grieving. It needs to be a declaration that we can do better, that our workplaces are not as safe as they can be, and we intend to see that change."

"Anything to remember a little more is important," said Misty Humbert, also a sister of Kevin Gregerson. "That's all we have left."



Flowers were placed at the base of the memorial.

## Ask Technical

**Q:**

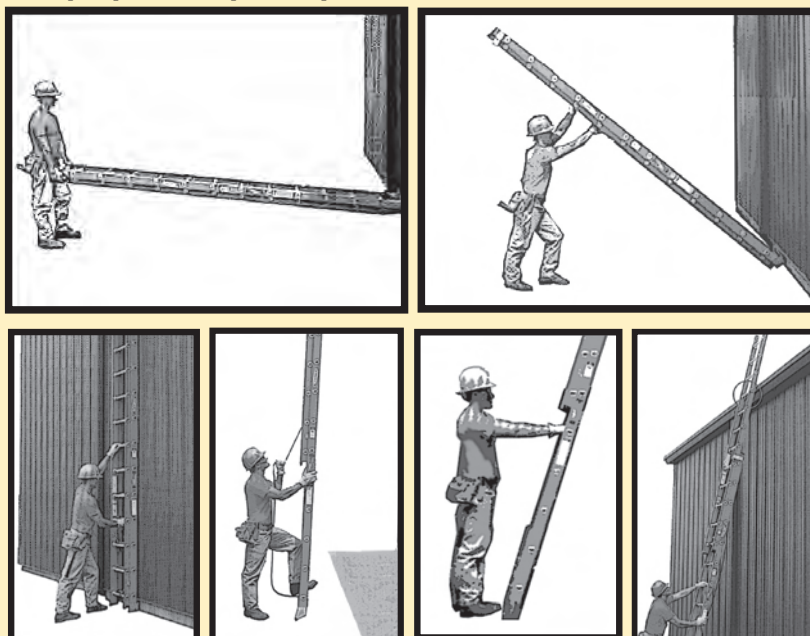
*I see in most cases when an employee is working more than 10 feet above the ground, fall protection is required. I am specifically interested in how the rules apply to our maintenance staff, who clean rain gutters with step ladders. Is there a rule of thumb or maximum height for an employee using ladders? It appears to me that if I supply a 10-foot step ladder (max.) they should never work above the 10-foot threshold.*



**A:**

*The 10-foot threshold within the fall protection rule does not apply to working from a ladder. When using portable ladders, there is no rule requirement for fall protection at any height, unless the employee is working above dangerous equipment such as an auger, conveyor, etc. As long as employees are trained on their use, and the ladder is set up and used in accordance with the rules for that type of ladder, that's all that is necessary. However, your company may exceed the minimum requirements specified in the rules. ■*

The proper setup of a portable ladder





# Going the distance

Meet a leading Oregon health and safety professional



## What is your background and safety philosophy?

I began my career in the U.S. Air Force in public health. During the six years that I served, I worked primarily in occupational medicine, communicable disease prevention, and health education divisions. I conducted inspections of the troop's work areas, provided health and safety training, and coordinated medical surveillance (much of what I still do today). After leaving the military, I returned to school at the University of Oregon and obtained a bachelor's degree in general science. During that time, I continued in health and safety by volunteering with national and local organizations and working for a pharmaceutical company until I came to work for Life Technologies six years ago.

My safety philosophy is that management commitment and employee involvement are key to a sustainable and successful program. Management needs to be supportive by setting the example, providing resources, and setting health and safety goals. Employee involvement is imperative in implementing health and safety into everyday practices. The employees live health and safety every day.

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**Company:** Life Technologies,  
Eugene

**Health and Safety Professional:** Jennifer Olson-Morzenti

**Workforce:** Approximately 300

**Common Hazards:** Chemical exposures, ergonomic concerns, slips/trips/falls



**Going the Distance**, *continued from page 23***Do you have examples of current projects with unique health challenges?**

Our business is research and development and manufacturing of novel chemicals and biological reagents. All of our projects present unique challenges in the raw materials that we use and the products we develop. We are diligent about reviewing our raw material safety data sheets (MSDS), creating safe product development plans and manufacturing standard operating procedures and implementing administrative and engineering controls.

Our current project that presents a unique challenge is our work in nanotechnology. We are collaborating with several national and local renowned public and private agencies to find innovative ways to become a safety leader in nanotechnology.



Qdot® Nanocrystals are one of several chemical technologies developed at the company. The size of the dot determines the color when placed under a black light.



Nanoparticles created in the lab are used for detection technology.



Phil Gillihan wears gloves and eye protection in the lab.

**Your company is part of Oregon OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), which is an achievement many companies strive for. How has it helped the culture and attitude of employees?**

Striving for VPP is a goal for all of Life Technologies' sites. The Eugene site was the first in the company and the second in our specific industry nationwide to obtain VPP status. Our safety program has given our employees and management team a sense of pride and ownership. Everyone lives the four elements of VPP, not only because it is vital to their well-being, but because they want to remain on the forefront of health and safety.

**Life Technologies has recently been forced to adapt to new leadership/ownership. How have you been able to maintain your VPP status and high level of health and safety programs in light of the changes?**

Honestly, it's been easy. Life Technologies has had such great management commitment and employee involvement, it was a seamless transition with the change in leadership. Our CEO, VP of Environmental Health and Safety, and our site leader are committed to continuous improvement in our EHS program and reaching VPP Star.

### Has the tight economy had any impact on your health and safety program?

Even though the status of the economy has affected many aspects of our industry, our company has remained committed to the health and safety of our employees. Life Technologies is committed to EHS and continuous improvement. We also support the VPP program through the Special Government Employee and mentoring program.

### What advice do you have for other safety and health managers hoping to make a difference?

- Involve all levels of your organization in the health and safety program development.
- Keep up with the technology. Our company is very innovative; therefore, our health and safety programs have to be innovative to keep the attention of our scientists.
- Network and benchmark with other companies.

Our success at Life Technologies is due to our sustainable EHS culture that has been created through management commitment and employee involvement.



Jennifer Dunham, who works in the shipping department, uses proper lifting techniques and ergonomic solutions at her work station.



Matt Johns and Olson-Morzenti discuss the unique chemical properties and hazards of dyes developed at Life Technologies.