



OSHSPA State Plan Report Renée Stapleton, Administrator

OSHSPA members meeting 2/25/2025

I. Significant Legislative/Programmatic Changes

Legislatively Mandated Rulemaking: None

Legislative Activity: The 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly convened for the 2025 Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 21st and is expected to end on or before June 29, 2025 (sine die). Of the 2924 introduced bills (as of February 20, 2025), Oregon OSHA is following approximately 46 bills.

Other Rulemaking Activity: On January 8, 2025, Oregon OSHA adopted [Comprehensive Amendments to Agricultural Labor Housing and Related Facilities](#). The adopted rule changes substantially raise the protective standards for indoor and outdoor facilities that operators must include when they provide housing. The rule changes are a result of a multi-year stakeholder engagement process beginning in 2018, when a rulemaking advisory group began meeting to discuss changes to Oregon OSHA's agricultural labor housing rule. The group consisted of growers, employer representatives, agricultural associations, housing operators and worker representatives, as well as agency personnel. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed rulemaking activities, which Oregon OSHA resumed in 2021 and continued through 2024. This rulemaking is part of a comprehensive package of reforms that contain investments and support to improve conditions and better regulate employer-provided labor housing in Oregon.

In addition, on September 11, 2025, [Oregon OSHA adopted Federal and Oregon OSHA Minor Corrections](#), including correcting amendments to federal standards published in [2019-27114](#) and [2020-00207](#). On September 24, 2024, Oregon OSHA filed a [notice of proposed rulemaking to adopt changes to Hazard Communication](#) (29 CFR 1910.1200) published in the May 20, 2024, Federal Register. On October 9, 2024, federal OSHA published corrections and technical amendments to the Hazard Communication standard, as well as indicated their intent to make additional corrections in the future. Oregon OSHA is awaiting further updates prior to proceeding with rulemaking on this topic.



II. New Developments/Activities/Notable Cases Activities:

Oregon OSHA News Releases:

- [Oregon OSHA fines Newberg contractor \\$135,407 for repeatedly exposing employees to fall hazards](#)
- [Central Oregon event to offer construction workers safety, health training; registration is open for January 2025 Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit](#)
- [Media contest invites Oregon high school students to promote young worker safety; entries due Feb. 21, 2025](#)
- [Safety and health conference for pulp, paper, and forest products industry coming to Portland with many learning opportunities](#)

Newsletters:

Oregon OSHA published the [January 2025 issue of its Health and Safety Resource newsletter](#)

- Connect and learn at the GOSH Conference, the Northwest's largest safety, health event
- How Oregon's governors shaped the history of GOSH
- What to know before you attend GOSH
- Going the Distance: GOSH keynote speaker raises the priority of mental health in the workplace
- What workers should know about avian flu caused by the H5N1 influenza virus
- Owens Corning site achieves ongoing VPP status
- Ask Oregon OSHA: Are workers allowed to wear watches with breakaway bands on the job?
- Incident Alert: Walking-working surface with an unprotected side or edge 4 feet or more above a lower level

Oregon OSHA Public Education Newsletter

Beginning November 2023, the Public Education team began preparing and sending a quarterly newsletter via email to subscribers through GovDelivery. There are approximately 31K email subscribers. The newsletter features Public Education's newest resource(s) along with information about our available education and training resources and webpages. Check out these newsletters: [July 2024](#) and [October 2024](#)

Oregon OSHA Conferences Update:

- American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) – Southern Oregon Chapter, October 15-17, 2024, Ashland, OR
- Oregon OSHA's Spanish Language Occupational Safety and Health Conference – November 5, 2024, Hillsboro, OR
- Association of Western Pulp & Paper Workers (AWPPW) – Oregon Safety Council, December 3-6, 2024, Portland, OR

Notable Case:

Oregon OSHA fined Cirque du Soleil \$8,070 for failing to prevent an employee from falling 15 feet during a performance at the company's Kooza show in Portland on August 24, 2024. The employee sustained severe injuries to her face and right wrist because of the fall.

How the incident happened

The employee was hanging from a hoop that was suspended from the ceiling by a rope and revolving in a circle during the first act of the show. Her right foot was resting on the bottom of the hoop and her left foot was wrapped around the rope at the top of the hoop. When her right foot slipped from the bottom of the hoop she reached for it with her left hand but could not hold on. She fell, striking the stage floor feet-first then collapsed on her wrists, hands, and face.

The employee was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital where she was admitted for surgery to treat fractures in her face and wrists.

Compliance officer's findings

Cirque du Soleil did not ensure that fall protection was used when an employee was exposed to a fall from a walking-working surface four feet or more above a lower level.

The compliance officer noted that performing arts companies such as Cirque du Soleil are not exempt from Oregon OSHA's general industry fall protection requirement: "...the employer must ensure each employee on a walking-working surface 4 feet (1.2 m) or more above a lower level is protected from falling" by an appropriate fall protection system. Oregon OSHA's general industry rules define a walking-working surface as "any horizontal or vertical surface on or through which an employee walks, works, or gains access to a work area or workplace."

Cirque du Soleil's risk hazard assessment of the aerial act said that while the likelihood of an accident was "unlikely," the severity of (a fall) would be "catastrophic" and result in an "undesirable" risk. But Cirque du Soleil determined that when other "risk controls" – such as the artist's skill, training, and rehearsal time – were taken into account the overall risk was "acceptable."

Oregon OSHA Online Training Resources

Online Courses:

Confined Space Safety (Spanish)

The English course launched in June 2024, and the Spanish version launched in September 2024. This new online course includes 5 modules. The course focuses on explaining the hazards of confined space work, the history of Oregon OSHA's rules, and the requirements for safely working within confined spaces. It is designed for employers and employees as they work toward improving their workplace safety. To enhance the course, our team produced and had translated, a new 14-minute video, [Practicing Confined Space Rescues](#).

Walking-Working Surfaces

The public education team continues to develop this online course, which is the 5th and final course in the [Fall Protection Suite](#). The videos in the course are now complete, and module content is nearly developed. This course takes you through the general requirements to help keep employees safe on walking-working surfaces. We begin by taking a look at the reason for the rules, and then clearly identify responsibilities for employers to maintain safe conditions. We highlight a checklist of situations when fall protection is appropriate and delve into

the many fall protection options available for different work environments, demonstrating how to apply each. Lastly, we cover the requirements of training. We are hoping to launch this course in the Spring of 2025!

Wildfire Smoke Training Requirements

To align with the changes to the new Federal AQI values and additional aspects to consider with regard to respirators at different AQI levels, we updated content and graphics in both our [English](#) and [Spanish](#) online courses.

III. Areas of Concern: None

IV. Information Sought from Other State Programs: None

V. Administrative Changes: After almost 9 years of service as Oregon OSHA's Deputy Administrator, Julie Love has decided to retire from her career in public service. Her leadership, personality, and positive contributions to Oregon OSHA's culture and success will all be greatly missed!

VI. Contact Information:

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