



**Oregon**

Tina Kotek, Governor



Department of Consumer  
and Business Services

## OSHSPA State Plan Report Renée Stapleton, Administrator

### OSHSPA members meeting 5/6/2025

#### 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 29th, 2025 (sine die). As of April 19th, there have been over 3,400 bills introduced. The first chamber deadline was April 9th; this was the last day for policy committees to move measures introduced in their chamber (i.e. Senate bills in the Senate, House bills in the House) out of committee. The deadline does not apply to Ways & Means, Revenue, Rules, and other joint committees. Some major themes in introduced bills include workplace violence, in both healthcare and schools, and agricultural labor housing.

**Other Rulemaking Activity:** None

#### 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 [April 2025 Issue of its Health and Safety Resource Newsletter](#)

- Administrator's Message: We must remember. We must renew our call to action
- Oregon OSHA offers Practicing Confined Space Rescues, a video training filmed at a wastewater treatment plant in Oregon
- Assessing work-related Oregon fatalities – then and now



350 Winter St. NE  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309



503-378-3272



[tech.web@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:tech.web@dcbs.oregon.gov)



[osha.oregon.gov](https://osha.oregon.gov)

- Why ladders can let you down
- Ask Oregon OSHA: Is the 4:1 ratio measured from the scaffold's highest working level or from the top handrail?
- April 28: A time to remember those we have lost
- Oregon employers, workers invited to take a 'Safety Break' May 14
- New and updated publications offer timely safety, health information
- GOSH connects people to improve safety, health
- Incident Alert: Contact with high-voltage power line
- Going the Distance: GOSH award recipients exemplify leadership in safety, health

#### 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 newsletter for [January 2025](#) and [April 2025](#).

#### **Oregon OSHA Conferences Update:**

- Central Oregon Safety & Health Association (COSHA) – January 27 & 28, 2025, Bend, OR.
- Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Conference (GOSH), partnered with American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) – Columbia-Willamette Chapter, March 3-6, 2025, Portland, OR.

#### **Notable Case:**

Oregon OSHA fined Northwest Earthmovers, Inc. more than \$140,000 for workplace hazards that resulted in the death of a 30-year-old pipelayer on September 24th, 2024.

##### *How did the incident happen?*

The pipelayer and four other members of his crew were preparing to lower a 5,400-pound precast concrete manhole "top section" onto its base in a 13.5-foot-deep excavation. The pipelayer had been assigned the task of coating the base manhole with joint sealant to ensure a watertight seal between the base and the top section after it was lowered into place.

To reach the base, which was enclosed in an eight-sided trench shield, the pipe layer had to descend a ladder in an adjacent rectangular trench shield, cross a 30-inch gap at the bottom of the excavation that separated the two shields, then enter the eight-sided shield through a small opening at its bottom.

The pipe layer climbed to the top of the base and began coating it with joint sealant. Meanwhile, his co-workers rigged the top section to an excavator so they could lower it onto the base.

When the pipe layer told the crew he was ready to receive the top section, the excavator operator lifted it and raised it above him so that he could guide it into place on the base.

Suddenly the top section broke loose from its rigging and flipped over onto the base, striking the pipe layer and killing him instantly.

### *The compliance officer's findings.*

1. The crew had attached the rigging to faulty lifting pins which caused the top section to slip from its rigging. Lifting pins are often embedded into precast concrete manhole sections by manufacturers to ensure the manhole can be properly rigged. However, the top section did not have lifting pins so the crew used readily available pins that lacked safety features and did not meet the manhole manufacturer's specifications.
2. The crew foreman instructed the pipe layer to stay in the base section of the manhole while the top section was lowered into place, which left him vulnerable and exposed if the rigging failed.
3. The company did not ensure that the lifting slings, fasteners, and lifting pins were inspected for damage or defects by a competent person each day before being used.
4. The company did not ensure that protective systems were installed in the excavation according to the manufacturer's specifications and that they were securely connected.
5. The company did not ensure that the protective systems were properly backfilled after they were installed.
6. The company did not ensure that the pipe layer was never more than 25 feet from a safe exit such as a stairway, ladder, ramp, while he was in the excavation.
7. The company did not ensure that the ladder the pipe layer used to enter the excavation had side rails that extended at least 42 inches above the upper landing surface.
8. The company did not ensure that a competent person conducted daily inspections of the trench shields to identify situations that could result in a cave-in, failure of a protective system, or other hazardous conditions.
9. The company used rigging equipment without affixed rigging tags or legible identification markings that indicated the load rating of the rigging components.



*The excavation site, showing the excavator, the two trench shields, and the unprotected 30-inch gap between them.*

## **Oregon OSHA Online Training Resources**

### **Online Courses:**

#### **Confined Space Safety (Spanish)**

Since its inception the Oregon OSHA YouTube Channel has amassed 6.1M views on [YouTube](#) and there are a total of 413 videos available. Between January 1, 2025 and March 31, 2025, videos on Facebook received 3,901 views; videos on Vimeo received 135,200 views; and LinkedIn gained 271 followers with 11 posts added, and 614 video views.

### **PowerPoints for Online Courses:**

#### **Confined Space Safety (Spanish)**

A PowerPoint presentation download is a featured tool that compliments all Public Education online courses, and is geared toward instructors. Based on Federal and State mandated Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (2.1), we have updated this tool for the following online courses: Accident Investigation (English), Bloodborne Pathogens (English), Fall Protection for Construction (English), Fall Protection for Roofing (English), Fundamentals of Fall Protection (English), Ladder Safety (English) and Ladder Safety (Spanish).

### **III. Areas of Concern: None**

### **IV. Information Sought from Other State Programs: None**

### **V. Administrative Changes:**

Stephen Lund has been selected to serve as Interim Deputy Administrator for Oregon OSHA effective March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Stephen has been with Oregon OSHA for 3 ½ years in his role as Administrative Services Manager.

Matt Kaiser has resigned from the Policy Manager position, his last day will be May 5, 2025. The recruitment for a new policy manager will be opening soon.

### **VI. Contact Information:**

<https://osha.oregon.gov>, Phone: 503-378-3272, Fax: 503-947-7461,  
Federal Liaison: Jenny Downen, [Jennifer.A.Dowen@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:Jennifer.A.Dowen@dcbs.oregon.gov)