



OSHSPA State Plan Report Renée Stapleton, Administrator

OSHSPA members meeting 2/24/2026

I. Significant Legislative/Programmatic Changes

Legislatively Mandated Rulemaking: Oregon OSHA is in rulemaking in response to legislation passed by the 2025 Oregon Legislature and signed by Gov. Tina Kotek. Senate Bill [\(SB\) 537](#) creates workplace violence prevention requirements to improve worker safety at certain health care sites and is set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2026. An Advisory Group has formed and is meeting to discuss draft language in January, February, and April 2026. Oregon OSHA intends to propose new administrative rules for Health Care Employee Safety in 2026.

Legislative Activity: Oregon's 2026 legislative session began on February 2, 2026 and this is the 84th convening of Oregon's Legislative Assembly. Oregon has two different sessions; a long session that convenes in odd-numbered years and a short session that convenes in even-numbered years. This year's short session will last a maximum of 35 days and sine die is set for March 8th, 2026. As of Friday, February 6, 2026, there were 287 bills introduced and currently, Oregon OSHA is following approximately 20 bills. Key topics that will be addressed by the legislature this year are: the impact of federal cuts on the state's budget; transportation funding; and healthcare spending.

Other Rulemaking Activity: Oregon OSHA is re-engaging in the Hazard Communication rulemaking as Federal OSHA published bundle of corrections to their standard, which includes February 13, 2026, [January 8, 2026](#), [January 15, 2026](#), and October 9, 2024 in the Federal Register. Now that final corrections have been published by Federal OSHA, Oregon OSHA intends to re-propose adoption of the revised and corrected federal standards in the spring of 2026.

Oregon OSHA is rulemaking to adjust OAR 437-001-0142 Annual Adjustment of Civil Penalties. Oregon OSHA already did temporary rulemaking to adjust the rule in response to uncertainties in the availability of the data for the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region, All Items (West Region CPI-U), [adopted November 21, 2025](#). As a result, Oregon OSHA is engaging in the permanent rulemaking process to provide more flexibility in the BLS CPI-U data time period should

there be another month not published by BLS. Oregon OSHA intends to propose the permanent changes to the rule in 2026.

The [Lead PEL rulemaking](#) is currently on-hold.

II. New Developments/Activities/Notable Cases Activities:

Oregon OSHA News Releases:

- [‘Safety Break’ encourages Oregon employers, workers to stand down May 13](#)
- [Eugene event puts focus on improving safety, health for workers with training, learning opportunities](#)
- [New guide helps Oregon workers, consumers to work safely, defeat scammers](#)
- [Una nueva guía ayuda a los trabajadores y consumidores de Oregon a trabajar de forma segura y a combatir a los estafadores](#)
- [Oregon OSHA finds Tualatin manufacturer willfully violated worker safety rule; penalties, corrective order issued](#)
- [Central Oregon event offers workers and employers tools to build safer, healthier construction sites](#)
- [Medford company fined \\$128,345 for exposing workers to multiple job hazards](#)
- [Portland event will offer educational opportunities to increase worker safety, health in pulp, paper, forest products, and other industries](#)
- [Media contest invites Oregon high school students to promote heat illness prevention for young workers](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Health Learning Opportunities coming to Southern Oregon in October](#)

Newsletters:

Since September 2025, Oregon OSHA has published four issues of its monthly Health and Safety Resource e-newsletter. We did not publish one in September because of a web migration freeze. We published Resource in October, November, December, and in January 2026. The stories were:

October 2025

- How do we protect those who protect us from fires?
- Challenge program offers fire districts free help with safety, health improvements
- Oregon OSHA’s Resource Center expands streaming video offerings
- Look up: Oregon OSHA billboard ads deliver key safety, health messages
- Upcoming conferences
- Ask Oregon OSHA
- Incident alert
- Upcoming workshops
- We are here to help! (consultation and technical resources)

November 2025

- Stacking, storage hazards lurk across industries; prevention is key
- Contest invites Oregon high school students to promote heat illness prevention
- Want free safety, health training materials? We have them for you
- Upcoming conferences
- Upcoming workshops
- Ask Oregon OSHA
- We are here to help! (consultation and technical resources)

December 2025

- Labor housing rule upgrades arriving; prepare with free resources
- Upcoming conferences
- New and updated publications
- Ask Oregon OSHA
- Incident alert
- Upcoming workshops
- We are here to help! (consultation and technical resources)
- New guide shows Oregon workers, consumers how to work safely, defeat scammers

January 2026

- Oregon employers, workers invited to take a 'Safety Break' May 13
- Upcoming conferences
- Upcoming workshops
- New and updated publications
- Ask Oregon OSHA
- We are here to help! (consultation and technical resources)

Oregon OSHA Conferences Update:

- Southern Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference
October 14-16, 2025 • Ashland
- Western Pulp, Paper & Forest Products Safety & Health Conference
December 2-5, 2025 • Portland
- Central Oregon Safety & Health Association (COSHA)
January 26-27, 2026 Bend, OR

Upcoming Conferences

- [Cascade Occupational Safety & Health Conference](#)
March 3 & 4, 2026 • Eugene
- [Northwest Safety & Health Summit by Region X VPPPA](#)
May 19-21, 2026 • Boise, Idaho
- [Blue Mountain Occupational Safety & Health Conference](#)

June 16 & 17, 2026 • Pendleton

- [Central Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference](#)
September 28 & 29, 2026 • Bend
- [Southern Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference](#)
October 13-15, 2026 • Ashland

Notable Case:

On an early morning in April 2025, a 39-year-old worker stepped down from his forklift to begin cleaning up debris amid rows of rough-cut lumber stacked high in the yard.

He was working for a sawmill in Oregon. A staffing company sent him there.

His life was cut short that morning: Two units of the towering lumber toppled, fatally burying and crushing him.

The company allowed the units of lumber to be stacked in an unstable manner, according to an investigation by Oregon OSHA. Under the Safe Employment Act, employers must provide safe and healthy working conditions. Workers have a right to such conditions. Oregon OSHA cited Swanson Group Inc. for two serious violations totaling initial penalties of \$43,401:

- failure to immediately secure unstable piles of lumber or to prohibit workers from entering the hazardous area by fencing or barricading it;
- and, in stacking units of lumber, failure to design and arrange pile foundations to support maximum loads to avoid sinking, sagging, or toppling.

The design-related violation was classified as having caused or contributed to the death of the worker. This type of violation is issued by Oregon OSHA when a fatality investigation determines that a violation of a workplace safety or health requirement was a factor in causing or contributing to the death of an employee. Penalties for such violations are generally higher than other [violation types](#).

The company corrected the violations, as required by Oregon OSHA.

The April morning incident was preventable. The devastating lesson it offers employers is not confined to the sawmill industry. In fact, stacking and storage hazards are more commonplace than one might think. They show up in warehouses and distribution centers, construction sites, manufacturing settings, agricultural operations, and retail storage facilities. The hazards include falling objects from unstable stacks, collapsing stacks, struck-by or caught-in incidents, trips and falls caused by obstructed aisles, and more.

The following is a summary of the stacking and storage requirements Oregon OSHA cited for violations in the case highlighted in this story:

Sawmills

29 CFR 1910.265(c)(27)(iii): Unstable piles of lumber were not immediately made safe, or the area into which they might fall was not fenced or barricaded, to prohibit employees from entering. Before the fatal injury, the employer failed to ensure that, when stacks of lumber were identified as unstable throughout the storage area, those unstable stacks were immediately secured or the area where they could fall was fenced or barricaded to prevent exposure to a struck-by hazard.

29 CFR 1910.265(c)(27)(i): In stacking units of lumber, pile foundations were not designed and arranged to support maximum loads without sinking, sagging, or permitting the piles to topple. Before the fatal injury, the employer failed to ensure that, in the upper kiln lumber storage area, all units of stacked lumber rested on sound foundations designed to prevent those units from sinking, sagging, or toppling. The dunnage, or bolster, materials had either not been arranged close enough to the outer edges of the lumber units above them or were damaged.

Oregon OSHA Online Training Resources

Online Courses:

Walking-Working Surfaces

The public education team has nearly completed development of this online course, which is the 5th and final course in the [Fall Protection Suite](#). The videos and course content is currently being placed into the learning platform to be viewed by Oregon OSHA's CORE team before publishing. We are anticipating launching this course in the Spring of 2026.

III. Areas of Concern: None

IV. Information Sought from Other State Programs: None

V. Administrative Changes: None

VI. Contact Information:

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