

# OREGON HEALTH AND SAFETY RESOURCE

September, October, November 2000

## ***Permit-required confined spaces: They're not designed to be occupied!***

By Ellis Brasch and Clint McBride, Technical Analysts, Oregon OSHA

If you store grain, process raw materials, or work in a large manufacturing plant, you're probably familiar with the term confined space.

Many Oregon workplaces have confined spaces – enclosed spaces that are difficult to enter and exit, large enough to work in, but not designed to be occupied. Nevertheless, workers need to enter them from time to time. For example, they may need to inspect equipment, fix leaks, do construction work, or rescue someone.

### **Characteristics of a permit space**

A permit space is a confined space that may contain life-threatening hazards, such as equipment that starts without warning, toxic gases, corrosive chemicals, or flammable solvents. No one can enter a permit space without first completing a written entry permit. (A sample entry permit

is available in OR-OSHA publication number 440-2864. See "Publication Spotlight," Page 2.)

A permit space has all of the characteristics of a confined space and one or more of the following characteristics: It has – or could have – a hazard that affects the air; it contains material that could trap or bury a person who enters; it's shaped so that an entrant could become trapped or asphyxiated; and/or it has any safety or health hazard that could harm an entrant.

### **Examples of confined spaces**

Most confined spaces are designed to hold substances such as liquids, gases, and loose materials or to house equipment. Though they come in many sizes

See "Permit," page 2

## ***Money available to develop safety and health training programs***

The deadline is approaching for trade and labor associations, employer consortiums, and other non-profit groups to apply for grants of up to \$40,000 to develop safety and health training programs and materials.

The Safety and Health Education and Training Grant Program was created by legislation co-sponsored by the Oregon AFL-CIO and Associated Oregon Industries. The program's goal is to encourage the development of occupational safety and health training and materials different from those already in existence.

According to Phyllis Straight-Millan, external relations manager for Oregon OSHA, "If you can identify an occupational safety and health concern for which there are no

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and shapes, most can be classified in one of two ways: those with depth and open tops and those with narrow openings. The table below gives examples of each.

<i>Open-topped and deep spaces</i>	<i>Spaces with narrow openings</i>
<i>pits</i>	<i>ship compartments</i>
<i>wells</i>	<i>silos</i>
<i>vats</i>	<i>pipes</i>
<i>hoppers</i>	<i>tunnels</i>
<i>bins</i>	<i>utility vaults</i>
<i>degreasers</i>	<i>casings</i>
<i>kettles</i>	<i>sewers</i>

### The meaning of “permit required”

Anyone who enters a permit space must first fill out a written permit that verifies that the hazards in the space have been eliminated or controlled and that the space is safe to enter. An entry supervisor must sign the permit and post it on the space so that workers can see it, then cancel it when work in the space is finished.

### What is 1910.146?

Oregon OSHA’s standard 1910.146 protects general industry workers who enter permit spaces. It requires employers to do the following:

- Survey their workplace to identify permit spaces.
- Inform employees about the location of each permit space and its hazards.
- Keep unauthorized workers out of permit spaces.
- Develop a written program that ensures the safety of any employee who must enter a permit space.

### Why is 1910.146 important?

Permit spaces are complex environments that may contain many different hazards. Workers can die in permit spaces because they don’t know about hazards or because they use the wrong procedures to control hazards. In fact, many of those who have died in permit spaces were trying to rescue others.

You probably wouldn’t board a commercial aircraft – even for a short flight – if you knew that the pilot and the maintenance crew ignored take-off procedures. Nor would you squeeze into a confined space if you knew that your coworkers had ignored procedures to eliminate or control the hazards.

1910.146 is important because it requires you, your coworkers, and your employees to follow safe-work practices. If you follow those practices, you’ll know when permit-space hazards exist and you’ll use the right procedures to eliminate or control them.

### Where to get a copy of 1910.146

If you’re a general-industry employer and your workplace has a permit space, you’ll need a copy of 1910.146. You can request a free copy from the Oregon OSHA Resource Center, (503) 378-3272, or you can download it from our Web site, [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org), under “Standards.” Review it carefully. Questions? Call the Standards and Technical Resources Section, (503) 378-3272, or, toll-free in Oregon, (800) 922-2689. ■



## Brand new!

This guide focuses on confined spaces that may contain life-threatening hazards – the so-called permit-required confined spaces or permit spaces. Its purpose is to help Oregon employers, their coworkers, and employees work safely in permit spaces. Included in the guide are samples of a written entry permit and a permit-space program. This publication does not take the place of a thorough review of §1910.146.

To receive this valuable publication, call the Oregon OSHA Resource Center, (503) 947-7447 or (800) 922-2689 (V/TTY), or fax your request to (503) 947-7463. The first copy of any Oregon OSHA publication is free. There may be charges for additional copies. Oregon OSHA publications are also available on the Web site, [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org), under “Publications.”

## Publication Spotlight



# Administrator's Message



Peter De Luca

I've had a lot of jobs in my life: carnival worker, haberdasher, brick maker, claims adjuster, mover, business agent, lobbyist, and lawyer, to name some of them. I have worked with people who liked their jobs and who put a lot of themselves into those jobs.

When I took the job as head of Oregon OSHA four and a half years ago, I expected I would find more of the same – people who work hard and like their jobs.

I was wrong!

Of all the jobs I've had, I have never found a group more dedicated to their profession. The vast majority of people who choose occupational safety and health as a career – whether they work in the government or private sector – devote far more than 40 hours a week to their jobs. It's clear they know how important their jobs are. It's clear they know that the sum of their efforts is counted in lives saved.

Recently these points were driven home for me. OR-OSHA has been concentrating on designing and delivering training for small businesses. I was in Portland to meet with an OR-OSHA staff member and some industry representatives who wanted to explore ways to help us get more people interested in attending the

OR-OSHA small-business workshops. I expected the group to suggest articles in newsletters, news releases, or something similar. I got a big surprise!

The group came to the meeting with a very well-done computer-generated presentation, that clearly depicted the impact of an effective safety and health program on the bottom line: a company's profit margin. This presentation showed small businesses how keeping workers safe and healthy allows them to underbid their competition. It was a very persuasive demonstration.

But the clincher was that this group volunteered to travel around the state to share its presentation with organizations with ties to small business to encourage people to attend the workshops.

I suppose health and safety professionals are used to such behavior. However, from my perspective, this was extraordinary! This degree of

volunteerism didn't exist in the professions of my life before OR-OSHA.

I've found that occupational safety and health professionals and other interested persons spend hundreds of hours planning conferences like the GOSH. (See Page 3.) Others work on OR-OSHA committees developing new rules. Still others help us disperse grant and scholarship monies. This adds up to hundreds of people who not only work in occupational safety and health in their day jobs, but who also volunteer their personal time to make workplaces safer and healthier.

We owe these people our gratitude. These professionals are truly unique. Their dedication makes us all better. Their commitment means that injuries will be prevented and that lives will be saved.

They redefine the slogan we all know: "Safety is a way of life." ■

## RESOURCE



The *Oregon Health and Safety Resource* is published quarterly by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division, Department of Consumer & Business Services.

Information requests should be directed to:

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# Oregon OSHA, safety engineers seek award nominees

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) are seeking nominations for the 2001 Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference (GOSH) awards.

These awards honor companies, individuals, labor unions, and associations who are pioneers in creating safe and healthful workplaces for Oregon workers. Recipients of the awards will be honored at a luncheon March 7, 2001, at the GOSH Conference.

The 27th Biennial GOSH Conference, co-sponsored by OR-OSHA and the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of ASSE is the largest safety and health conference on the West Coast. Conference attendees will choose from more than 80 training sessions. There will be more than 180 booths in the exhibit area.

## Award Categories:

### **Employer Awards**

Five awards for employers that have made an outstanding contribution to occupational safety and health. Categories: Small Employer (up to 30 employees), Medium Employer (31-99 employees), Large Employer (more than 99 employees), Public Employer, and New Business (companies established in Oregon within the past five years).

### **Safety Committee Awards**

For private and public safety committees that have made substantial efforts in the prevention of workplace injury and illness. Categories: Small Employer (up to 30 employees) Medium Employer (31-99 employees), and Large Employer (more than 99 employees).

### **Individual Awards**

For individuals or teams that have made significant contributions to the field of occupational safety and health. Categories: Safety Professional, Individual, or Team; Industrial Hygienist, Health Professional, and Labor Representative.

### **Association Award**

For any Oregon trade association, labor union, or business association that has made significant contribution to the field of safety and health on behalf of its members.

### **Lifesaving Award**

For an individual or individuals that have demonstrated extraordinary efforts to save the life of another person while on the job.

To nominate a team, organization, or an individual in one or more of the award categories, contact the OR-OSHA Conference Section, (503) 378-3272, for a nomination packet. The deadline for nominations is October 16, 2000. Nomination forms are available on the Web: [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org), under "Services."

## Winners of 1999 GOSH Conference Awards

**Professional Mechanical Inc.**, an industrial pipefitting firm in Albany, whose employees use a "take two" practice: They take two minutes before the start of any job to see how they can do it right and safely. (Award category: Small Employer.)

**Yorke & Curtis Inc.**, a Beaverton general contractor with about 60 employees that did not have any lost-time accidents between 1995 and 1998. (Award category: Medium Employer.)

**Bear Creek Corporation**, a diversified agricultural operation in Medford that employs a base staff of about 1,100 and as many as 7,000 part-time and seasonal workers. Bear Creek established its Environmental Steering Committee in 1997 to ensure compliance with environmental, health, and safety regulations and gain a stronger presence for health and safety interests in the company's decision-making processes. (Award category: Large Employer.)

**The Regional Environmental Management Department of Metro (REM Metro)**, a regional governmental agency for Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. REM Metro earned the GOSH Public Employer Award in 1999 by reducing incidents, injuries, shutdown times, and response costs at waste transfer stations.

**Northwest Laborers Training Trust Fund (NLTT)**, located in Corvallis, for significant contributions to safety and health by providing consultant services and training to managers and employees of companies such as North American Energy Services Company, which nominated NLTT for its 1999 GOSH award.

See "1999 Awards," page 15

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# Pulp & paper workers' conference moves to Portland

The 10th Annual Western Pulp and Paper Workers' Safety and Health Conference will be December 5-8, 2000, at the DoubleTree-Jantzen Beach in Portland. The conference theme is "Partners in safety, steering toward the future." Programs address training required by OSHA and help employers manage safety and health programs and reduce operating costs.



The conference moves to the Portland metro area this year for more space and to be closer to the Portland Airport. The conference has been held in Eugene as the Oregon Pulp & Paper Workers' Safety and Health Conference. The new name reflects growing participation by attendees outside Oregon and Washington. The conference is for managers, employees, safety committee members, and safety professionals in paper

manufacturing, converting, chemical manufacturing and supply, and related industries.

The **Western Pulp and Paper Workers' Safety & Health Conference** is a joint effort of the Department of Consumer and Business Services Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (Oregon OSHA) and the Oregon Pulp and Paper Workers Council of Associated Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW) in cooperation with IBEW, PACE, LERC, CROET, Washington Safety Council of AWPPW, and WISHA (Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act).

**Questions?** Call the Conference Section in Salem, (503) 378-3272 (V/TTY) or (888) 292-5247, option 1; send e-mail to [oregon.conferences@state.or.us](mailto:oregon.conferences@state.or.us); or visit the conference Web site, [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org), under "Services." ■

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## Workers' Memorial Scholarships awarded

Three Oregon college students received Workers' Memorial Scholarships for the 2000-2001 school year.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) administers annual scholarships for the education of spouses or children of permanently disabled or fatally injured workers. The Workers' Memorial Scholarship was established by the 1991 Legislature at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO with support from Associated Oregon Industries

**Monica Applegate**, who is planning to study business management at Pacific University in Forest Grove, was awarded \$2,000. Applegate attended high school in Prospect, where she was student council treasurer and class treasurer/secretary and was involved in sports, playing volleyball, basketball, and softball. She also worked on the yearbook staff. Her volunteer service included being a member of Prospect Search and Rescue and a peer mediator. She participated on a litter patrol to clean federal roads and helped to clean the Prospect Arboretum. Monica's long-term goal is to be a small-business owner or a lawyer.

**Jesse A. St. John** was a member of the 2000 Madras High School graduating class. He was awarded \$1,250 to attend a liberal arts college in the fall. Although he

has not set concrete goals, he wants to attend college in order to make wise life choices. At the age of 10, it was discovered that St. John had a spacial sequential deficit, a type of dyslexia. After 18 months of daily exercises, including reading from a book as his mother slowly rotated it 360 degrees, his reading and comprehension were at grade level. He graduated from high school with a GPA of 3.8. "What develops character in a person's life is struggles, trials, testings, and tribulation," St. John said on his application.

**Ann M. Schriber** was awarded \$2,000 toward her masters degree in teaching at Oregon State University. Schriber graduated at age 16 in the top 10 percent of her class at Tillamook High School. As a high school student, Schriber was involved in sports activities and 4-H. She was a volunteer fundraiser for Doernbecher Children's Hospital and was a farm cleanup member for the Great Flood of 1996 in Tillamook County. She expects to receive her bachelor's degree this year. After getting her master's degree, she plans to teach elementary school in Oregon.

For more information on this scholarship program, contact Phyllis Straight-Millan, (503) 378-3272, or the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, (800) 452-8807. ■



## Kermit McCarthy, Manager of Oregon OSHA Laboratory

by Cheryl Mushaney, Administrative Assistant, Oregon OSHA

Oregon OSHA maintains a full-service accredited Industrial Hygiene Laboratory in Northeast Portland that investigates and studies more than 4,000 air samples a year. These workplace samples are evaluated for toxic substances, e.g., lead, asbestos, formaldehyde, dust, etc. The lab employs nine technical staff under the direction of the Enforcement Section manager, Barry Jones.

On July 10, 2000, Kermit McCarthy replaced Marija Janko, who retired after 30 years of state service as the manager of the Oregon OSHA Laboratory. An employee of Oregon OSHA for 20 years, Kermit's personal goal has always been to produce the highest quality work possible.

As senior chemist at the lab, McCarthy has performed highly complex as well as routine tests on samples submitted by Oregon OSHA's Enforcement and Consultation staff. McCarthy conducted research to improve the quality and scope of the laboratory's analytical work, developed methods based on new and innovative technology, and introduced major process developments, i.e., personal-computer-controlled instrumentation and "autosampler" equipment. He also designed a database for entering, tracking, and reporting calibration data for field equipment.

With teamwork and effective communication, McCarthy designed and maintains a computerized system for entering, tracking, and reporting analytical results that meet the requirements of the American Industrial Hygiene Association accreditation program and also meets legal needs by using strictly defined and documented methodologies.

McCarthy has co-authored three chemistry-related papers and two industrial hygiene-related papers, as well as presented at local and regional industrial hygiene conferences. As the laboratory's quality assurance coordinator, McCarthy has developed and implemented procedures and protocols for the laboratory over the years.

Native to the Northwest, McCarthy was raised on a farm in Roseburg. His family remains in the area, his mother and a brother living at Mt. Hood and two brothers living in Portland. When he was a senior in college, McCarthy met Maria, to whom he has been married for 25 years. When he graduated from Lewis and Clark



Kermit McCarthy



College, he traveled to Alta, Utah, where he worked and skied for a year while Maria continued her education. When he returned to Oregon, he joined Maria at Oregon State University, where he and his wife completed their graduate studies.

The couple's 19-year-old daughter Erin is a sophomore at the University of Puget Sound in Washington state. A ballet dancer, Erin danced for the Portland Parks system, where her dad became involved as a member and the chair of the Metro Dance Advocates Board. As a volunteer, he organized and facilitated meetings, coordinated everything from marketing to production for dance performances, and set up fund-raising events.

The couple's second daughter Megan, a freshman at Grant High School, plays soccer and is a competitive swimmer. McCarthy, who has served as the soccer team's coach, organized an ethnically diverse group of preteen girls and taught them soccer fundamentals, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

McCarthy enjoys the many challenges of his job with the Oregon OSHA Consultation and Enforcement field staff. In his free time, he tutors high school math students and volunteers as a database writer for private organizations.

McCarthy looks forward to coaching soccer again when he retires in a few years. He intends to intersperse hiking, skiing, and traveling the back roads of the Northwest with coaching soccer. ■

# SAFETY NOTES

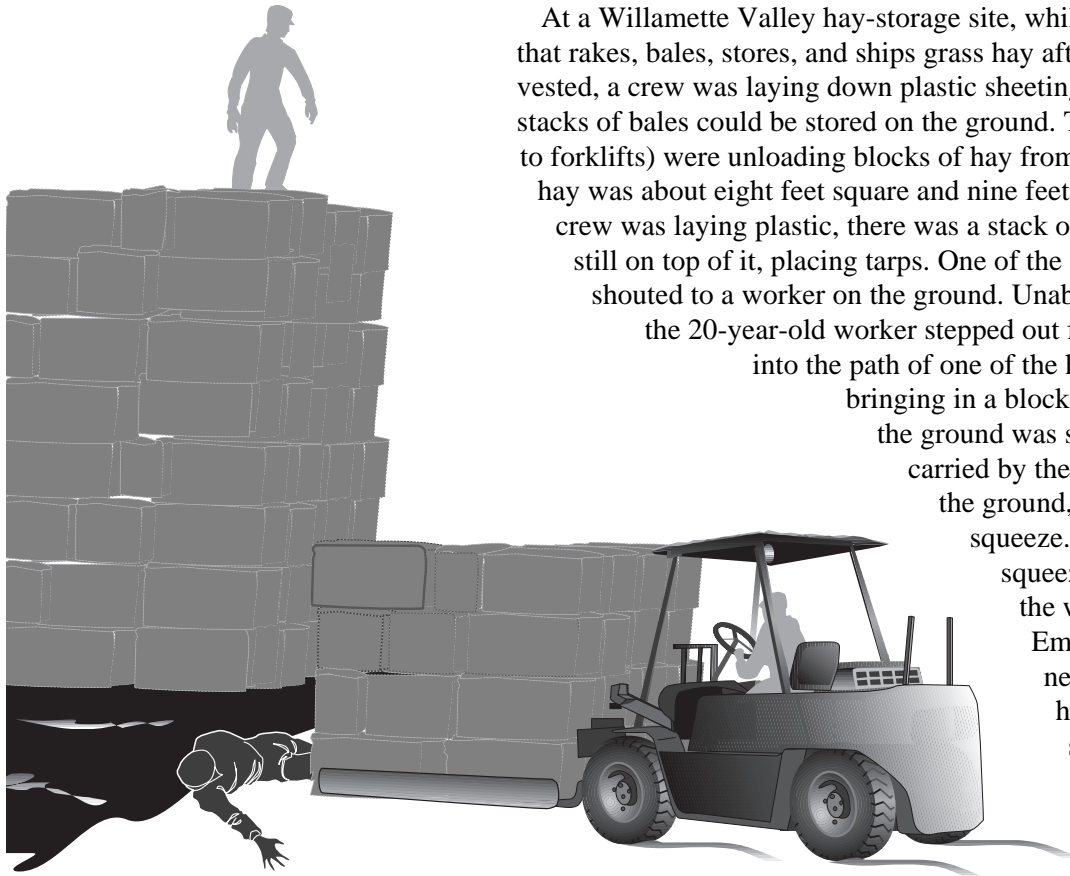
Department of Consumer & Business Services  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division  
Salem, OR 97310

## Fatality Report

Accident type ..... Struck/crushed by vehicle  
Industry ..... Agriculture/hay operation  
Employee job title ..... Laborer/hay crew

### **Description of accident**

At a Willamette Valley hay-storage site, while working for a company that rakes, bales, stores, and ships grass hay after the seed has been harvested, a crew was laying down plastic sheeting and old car tires so that stacks of bales could be stored on the ground. Two hay squeezes (similar to forklifts) were unloading blocks of hay from a trailer. Each block of hay was about eight feet square and nine feet high. Next to where the crew was laying plastic, there was a stack of hay blocks with workers still on top of it, placing tarps. One of the workers atop the stack shouted to a worker on the ground. Unable to see who had called, the 20-year-old worker stepped out from the base of the stack into the path of one of the hay squeezes, which was bringing in a block of hay. The worker on the ground was struck by the block of hay carried by the hay squeeze, knocked to the ground, and run over by the hay squeeze. The operator of the hay squeeze felt a bump and found the worker under a rear tire. Employees who had witnessed the accident ran to help and called emergency services. The victim died at the scene.



### **Investigation findings**

OR-OSHA investigators determined that the ground crew of laborers had been permitted to work under and near elevated loads as the hay squeezes delivered blocks of hay to the stacks to be stored. The employer was cited for a serious violation and fined \$5,000.

### **To prevent similar accidents**

- Never permit employees to work under and near loads
- Ensure that drivers of vehicles bearing large loads have adequate mirrors and warning-sound devices
- Train workers to always look out for equipment operators who may not be able to see them
- Place a higher priority on safety than on production, and provide a “safe zone” around busy unloading equipment

### **Applicable standards**

OAR 437-02-221(13)(c)  
OAR 437-04-1610(f)

# SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division  
Salem, OR 97310

## Fatality Report

Accident type ..... Asphyxiation/fermentation tank  
Industry ..... Winemaking  
Employee job title ..... Laborer

### **Description of accident**

On an October day at an Oregon vineyard, a male employee, whose job included performing pump-over operations between wine fermentation tanks, was found draped across the top of a fermentation tank with one arm and his head inside the tank. The general manager/winemaker found the worker and attempted to perform CPR. Paramedics arrived and determined that the worker was dead. The coroner's report, a month later, identified the cause of death as "asphyxiation due to low environmental oxygen level."



### **Investigation findings**

OR-OSHA determined that the employer had committed serious violations by not conducting an evaluation of the confined spaces at the worksite, not informing exposed employees about confined-space hazards by posting signs or by any other effective means, not having a written permit-space entry program available for the employees to inspect, and not providing the hazard-control measures necessary to protect employees from harmful or hazardous conditions. Proposed penalties totaled \$18,000.

### **To prevent similar accidents**

- Whether you operate an established business or a new business, find out what safety and health requirements your business is subject to and comply with them.
- Know what a confined space is and what hazardous atmospheres exist at your workplace and take measures to protect your employees.
- When employees perform tasks that involve hazardous atmospheres, ensure that they never work alone.

### **Applicable standards**

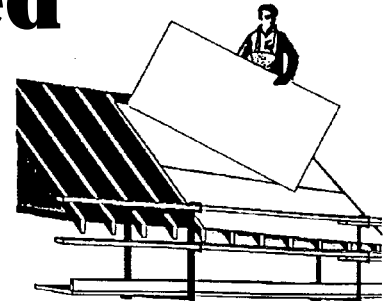
- 29 CFR 1910.146(c)(1)
- 29 CFR 1910.146(c)(2)
- 29 CFR 1910.146(c)(4)
- OAR 437-01-760(1)(c)



## EMPLOYER ALERT

### Fall Protection Required

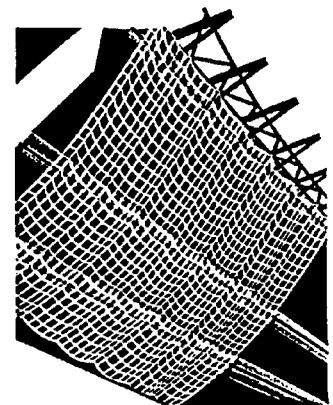
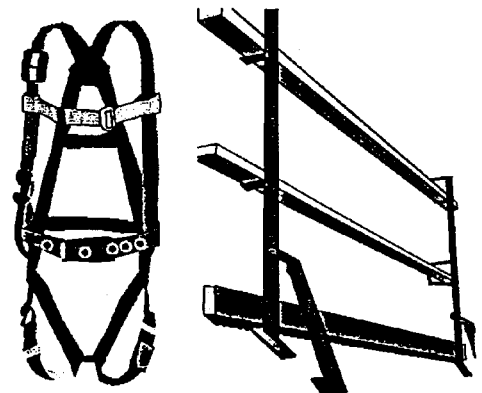
*When delivering to elevated locations and rooftops on construction sites*



This is to remind employers involved in wholesale/retail sales that fall protection or fall restraint is required to be used by all employees delivering equipment or materials (including roofing materials) to elevated locations on construction sites with ground-to-roof heights of 10 feet or more (such as unguarded roofs) or at any height above dangerous equipment. The requirements for such protection are contained in OAR 437, Division 2, Subdivision I, Oregon Rules for Fall Protection (OAR 437-002-0125).

All employees of construction companies delivering equipment or materials on unguarded roofs, or to anyplace where fall hazards exist, must also be protected by use of adequate fall-protection or fall-restraint systems. Deliveries to commercial sites require fall protection when fall distances are six feet or greater (1926.501(b)(10), and (11)). Deliveries to residential sites require fall protection when fall distances are 10 feet or greater (Oregon exception for residential-type construction, 1926.501(b)).

Workers are prohibited from riding on any conveyor at any time, unless it is specifically designed for that purpose (1926.555(a)(8) and OAR 437-002-0221(14) and (20)).



If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Oregon OSHA Technical Services, (503) 378-3272 or toll-free in Oregon, (800) 922-2689 (all numbers are V/TTY), or send e-mail to [tech.web@state.or.us](mailto:tech.web@state.or.us).

## HAZARD ALERT

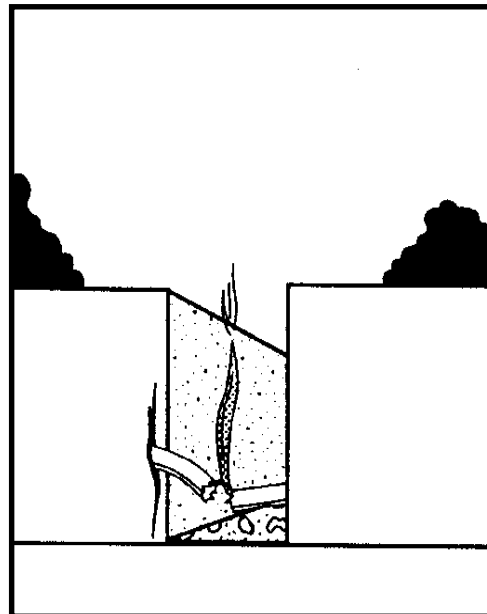
### Call before you dig!

An apprentice electrician contacted an energized underground conductor while driving a grounding rod. The apprentice, working under the supervision of a journeyman, was driving the eight-foot-long grounding rod for a temporary electrical service. Neither worker followed procedures to locate underground conductors before starting work.

The rod was about three to four feet into the ground when it struck the conductor. The employee received a minor shock. The rod was removed with an insulated tool. The workers notified their office of the incident, then installed another rod in a different location, also without attempting to locate underground conductors.

Oregon PUC standards require workers (especially electrical contractors) to contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) before starting any in-ground work. Oregon OSHA standard OAR 437-003-1926.651(b)(1) requires locating utilities before digging. Each contractor or subcontractor must call the OUNC before starting work. If a worker contacts an underground line or pipe, the contact could be fatal. In addition, the contractor is responsible for all repair costs if they did not contact OUNC before starting work.

**Call before you dig!** In the Portland Metro Area, call 246-6699. In Clark County, call 696-4848. In all other areas of Oregon, call (800) 332-2344.



Hazard alerts are produced by the Oregon OSHA Standards and Technical Resources Section. They provide information on unusual safety or health hazards, or unusual or hazardous materials or practices. They contain information from OR-OSHA field staff, research from the Standards and Technical Resources staff and various published material.

For more information, contact Mike Mitchell, (503) 947-7450 or visit our Web site: [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org).

# SHARP employers recognized in the summer of 2000



This summer, Oregon OSHA recognized nine Oregon employers as SHARP. SHARP is the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program of the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) Consultation and Services Section.

SHARP is a cooperative program between business and government that recognizes Oregon employers and employees committed to managing occupational safety and health. A SHARP company is one that has requested and received a no-cost Oregon OSHA comprehensive consultation, corrected all safety and health hazards noted by the consultant, and – most importantly – incorporated the key elements of an effective safety and health program in business operations. SHARP certification must be renewed yearly.

**Core'Mark International, Inc.**, Grants Pass, completed its fourth year as an Oregon SHARP employer. It is a large privately owned convenience industry distributor.

Six employers completed their second year: **Graphic Arts Center** in Portland, a family-owned printing business; **Bay Area Enterprises, Inc.**, Coos Bay, a private nonprofit organization that provides training and rehabilitation; **Louisiana Pacific - Hines**, an engineered wood products plant in Hines; **Marvin Wood Products** in Baker City, a producer of windows and doors; **Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries** in Medford, which trains and employs people with disabilities and other employment barriers; and **Timber Products Company, Spectrum Division**, in White City, a specialty wood products plant.

Two Oregon employers became first-year SHARP employers: **QPM Aerospace** in Portland, a manufacturer of supplies for the aerospace and defense industries, and the **LaGrande Equipment Repair Shop**, a branch of the Support Services Section of the Oregon Department of Transportation.

There are 51 SHARP employers, representatives of which have formed the Oregon SHARP Alliance that meets regularly to support other Oregon employers in their quest for an accident-free workplace. Anyone interested in SHARP is encouraged to attend the SHARP Alliance meeting in Myrtle Point, September 20. For more information, contact Phyllis Straight-Millan, (503) 378-3272. ■

All Oregon employers are eligible to participate in the SHARP program. Please direct questions to Steve Beech or Cheryl Mushaney, (503) 378-3272, or toll-free in Oregon, (800) 922-2689. Information, including a list of Oregon's SHARP employers, is available on the OR-OSHA Web site, [www.oroша.org](http://www.oroша.org) under "Services." Also at the site, you'll find a self-evaluation that tests your readiness to become an Oregon SHARP employer.

*“Training Programs,” from page 1*

currently existing training programs, you can apply for a grant to produce one.”

An example of one such program is **Lend Me Your Ears**, a three-part audio program aimed at alerting workers to the harmful effects of noise-induced hearing loss on communication and safety. The program is designed for presentation to groups of workers at safety meetings. It demonstrates how hearing loss affects the comprehension of speech, warning sounds, and environmental sounds. In addition, the series contains simple listening exercises in which the employee evaluates his or her ability to understand speech that is filtered to simulate a noise-induced hearing loss. The self-scored exercises demonstrate how simple workplace commands can be misunderstood and how warning signals can go unheard when a worker has a hearing loss. Having employees “experience” hearing loss is intended to motivate them to use hearing protection.

A 15-page instructor’s manual explains how to administer the listening tests. The manual contains a sample answer sheet and provides additional information about promoting hearing conservation. **Lend Me Your Ears** was produced at the Portland State University Audiology Research Laboratory.

Additional programs include pictograms for training mentally challenged individuals on hazards in the workplace; a dairy farmers checklist and video; a home-

builders manual with videos in Russian, Spanish, and English; and a CD-ROM interactive training program on preventing attacks by dogs.

Since its inception in 1990, the Safety and Health Education and Training Grant Program has awarded 61 grants totaling \$1.57 million.

“The finished product is the sponsor’s product to use,” said Straight-Millan, “But it also goes in the OR-OSHA resource library where it can be checked out and used by anyone in the state of Oregon.”

Training and education grants are usually awarded twice a year. If all the monies have not been awarded, a third round of proposals may be solicited. To meet the deadline for the grant awards, you must submit a completed application to the Department of Consumer and Business Services Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) no later than October 29, 2000. Approximately \$129,000 remains in the grant fund for this biennium.

For more information about this program, call Thomás Schwabe, OR-OSHA training specialist, (503) 947-7436. To receive a grant application packet, call Kathy Mossbrucker, (503) 947-7437 or (toll-free in Oregon) (800) 922-2689. Information, including the guidelines, procedures and the application packet is available on our Web site, [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org), under “Services.” ■

## What's up with JEP?



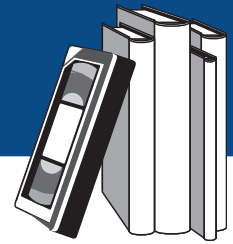
The Oregon construction industry and OR-OSHA are working together to reduce construction injuries and fatalities. The Joint Emphasis Program (JEP) is a cooperative effort among management, labor, and government to design and implement focused joint training sessions.

JEP has selected scaffold safety as its next subject and has designed a course for safety officers, scaffold users, on-site supervisors, managers and others. The course covers proper methods, identification, and construction of common scaffolds used in the construction industry.

Based on Oregon OSHA’s construction standards, this program was put together with the help of professional scaffold erectors, manufacturers, construction, and government. The course also covers platform construction, safe access, hazard assessment, fall protection, and other user concerns.

Locations	Dates	Times
Ashland	10/24/00	1:00 p.m.
Astoria	10/17/00	1:00 p.m.
Beaverton	11/02/00	1:00 p.m.
Bend	10/03/00	1:00 p.m.
Eugene	10/19/00	8:00 a.m.
Pendleton	10/25/00	1:00 p.m.
Roseburg	11/15/00	8:00 a.m.
Salem	10/31/00	1:00 p.m.

**Interested?** Call the Oregon OSHA Public Education Section, (503) 947-7443, or (888) 292-5247, option 2.



## Two little words spell DANGER!

by Don Harris, AV Librarian, Oregon OSHA

What's the biggest safety and health hazard out there? My vote goes for two little words: "I guess." *Funk and Wagnall's Standard Desk Dictionary*, defines a guess as a judgment or opinion based on uncertain or incomplete knowledge.

The following "I guess" statements are taken, in no particular order, from the life experience of this writer. As embarrassing as it is now, I've actually said, or thought, each of the following at some time in my life:

Well, I've never been before, but, I guess it would be fun to go skiing. I guess this fuel gauge must be broken. I'm sure I have plenty of gas. The kids are sure quiet. I guess they're doing their homework. I haven't been roller skating since 1968, but I guess once you learn, you never forget. I guess she's isn't talking much because she's content just to be with me.

As you can probably guess, I could kick myself today for the things I said yesterday! Now that we've had some fun with these past personal traumas, let's take a look at some "I guesses" you might encounter in the workplace.

I've never operated a forklift before, but I guess anyone could drive this thing. It looks frayed, but I guess this rope will hold. I guess this machine is supposed to make that grating sound. I haven't had safety training in years, but I guess things haven't changed much. The voltage isn't very high, I guess a few sparks are nothing to worry about. I guess getting this job done quickly is more important than some old safety rules.

Guesses like these can be downright dangerous. So why do we do it? We're in such a hurry, and time is money. It just seems easier and more

cost effective to go ahead and give it a try. All well and good for minor life issues – like how many jelly beans are in the jar at the carnival – but a wrong guess about safety at work can lead to serious injury, a lifelong disability, or death.

OR-OSHA believes that open communication is the best way to avoid the kind of guesswork that can lead to catastrophe. And real communication means that what you say to us is just as important as what we say to you. As a division dedicated to serving Oregon's employers and workers, we can't afford to guess about whether or not our service is effective. We can't afford to say "We aren't hearing much from our customers these days. I guess we're doing a good job."

Please, talk with us. Let us know how we're doing and how we could

do better. Tell us what works for you and what doesn't. One quick and easy way to do this is by using the postage-paid satisfaction questionnaires offered to you by various sections of Oregon OSHA, including the audiovisual library. These questionnaires take just a few minutes to fill out and we do pay attention to your comments and suggestions. A few moments of your time may be just what it takes to improve workplace safety for you and for thousands of other employers and workers in Oregon.

So, take a lesson from your AV librarian's sprained ankle, broken-down car, minor house fire, wrenched back, and domestic discord. Saying "I guess" can be hazardous! Let's save ourselves some trouble and stay in touch. ■

## NEW ARRIVALS! SUMMER 2000

**Needlestick Prevention: Five Steps to Safety** (#895) 14 min. A needlesstick injury can be fatal! This program emphasizes safe work practices for the prevention of needlesstick injuries among healthcare workers. Includes a review of new medical implements and guidelines for safe use and disposal of several kinds of sharps. Also describes procedures for dealing with a needlesstick injury.

**Youth Safety in the Workplace** (#489) 19 min. This is a grant program produced by Associated Oregon Industries showing ten specific occupational safety and health hazards. Among the hazards covered are forklifts, eye protection, lifting, and emer-

gency procedures. The program also covers age limits for occupational activities performed by minors.

**Fall Protection in Spanish** (#1019) 21 min. Covers various types of fall protection, including guardrails and monitoring systems, body harnesses, and lanyards, with special emphasis on pre-inspection of equipment. Also covers rescue procedures.

**Forklift Handling: Safety in Dangerous Situations** (#1016) 15 min. A graphic depiction of a wide variety of forklift accident causes and solutions; this program may be especially effective in heightening safety awareness for those working on or around forklifts.

Applying OR-OSHA standards to “real-life” situations may not always be “standard” procedure. Sometimes, answers and solutions to problems can be tricky. *Ask OR-OSHA* is a regular feature of *Resource* so that your questions concerning OR-OSHA standards and your business may be answered by experts. So please, *Ask OR-OSHA* by calling the Standards and Technical Section, (503) 378-3272 or e-mailing your question to tech.web@state.or.us. We’ll answer your question(s) as quickly as possible. We’ll also print selected questions and answers in this newsletter so that the answer to your questions may help others.

**Q** What training is necessary for employees who work with fluorescent light fixtures that contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) or who handle or clean up PCB-containing oils from the ballasts?

**A** All employees who remove ballasts with PCBA-containing oils, or who perform clean-up operations from leaking ballasts or any associated tasks, need to be trained in the requirements of OAR 437-002-1910.1220, Hazard Communications and OAR 437-002-1910.132, Personal Protective Equipment.

**Q** Although I have 12 employees, my accident rate is zero. Does this mean I have a “low-hazard environment?” Can I hold quarterly safety committee meetings instead of monthly?

**A** The term “low-hazard environment” refers to the potential for injury and illness, not necessarily your own experience. Unless your firm’s activities are similar to an office environment, you must hold monthly meetings to discuss your ongoing prevention efforts. OAR 437-001-0765(6)(a)(C)

**Q** As an employer, how much authority must I give to my safety committee?

**A** A safety committee is generally an advisory body. Some employers allow safety committees varying degrees of decision-making authority in addition to that specified in the rules. The degree of authority the employer gives to the safety committee should be defined in writing. OAR 437-001-0765

**Q** Must an employer respond to all recommendations by its safety committee?

**A** Yes. The employer does not have to agree with the recommendations, but he or she must respond in writing within a reasonable time. A “reasonable” period for responding to recommendations should be determined by the safety committee. OAR 437-001-0765(6)(b)(C)

**Q** As an employer, am I obligated to implement every suggestion my safety committee submits?

**A** No, but you must provide a written response to each recommendation. Your safety committee can provide valuable input in helping you prevent injuries and illnesses and save money. OAR 437-001-0765(6)(b)(C)

**Q** What are bloodborne pathogens?

**A** Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms that can cause disease when transmitted from an infected individual to another individual through blood and certain body fluids. Bloodborne pathogens are capable of causing serious illness and death. The most common illnesses caused by bloodborne pathogens are hepatitis B (HBV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

**Q** Who is covered by the bloodborne pathogens standard?

**A** OR-OSHA’s rule applies to all persons exposed during the performance of job duties to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) through skin, eyes, mucous membranes, or broken skin by needlesticks, human bites, cuts, abrasions, splashes, or other means. Blood means human blood, blood products, or blood components.

OPIM include the following:

- Human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.
- Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead).
- HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions as well as blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV. ■

**Pacific Western Extruded Plastics Company (PWPipe) Eugene Plant Safety Committee** received the 1999 Safety Committee Award, Medium Employer. This safety committee achieved and sustained excellence by developing strong partnerships and maintaining high company-wide involvement.

The safety committee of **Pioneer Cut Stock, Inc.**, which works with management and employee support and participation to achieve its goal of no accidents. (Award category: Safety Committee, Large Employer)

**Diann Walker-Pope, team leader and safety coordinator at Cell Tech/New Earth**, who, with her team, played a critical role in leading the company's safety and health efforts. (Award category: Team)

**Beryl Fletcher, director of public affairs for the Oregon Dental Association**, recognized for her strong voice for Oregon dental-office safety. She produced valuable training tools that brought OSHA and Oregon Health Division safety rules into the dental office. (Award category: Individual)

**Samuel Irving, senior risk specialist for the City of Portland, Office of Transportation, Maintenance Bureau**, recognized for his commitment to safety, which resulted in a dramatic decrease in accidents and injuries and improved morale and productivity. (Award category: Individual)

**Patrick M. Betteridge, Portland General Electronic journeyman lineman**, recognized for his quick response and life-saving efforts when another lineman suffered second-and third-degree burns while working in a lift-bucket at an electrical pole. (Award category: Life saving)

## RESOURCE

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# Questions?

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

## **Portland**

1750 N.W. Naito Pkwy., Ste. 12  
Portland 97209-2533  
(503) 229-5910  
Consultations:  
(503) 229-6193

## **Eugene**

1140 Willagillespie, Ste. 42  
Eugene, OR 97401-2101  
(541) 686-7562  
Consultations:  
(541) 686-7913

## **Pendleton**

721 SE Third St., Ste. 306  
Pendleton, OR 97801-3056  
(541) 276-9175  
Consultations:  
(541) 276-2353

## **Medford**

1840 Barnett Rd., Ste. D  
Medford, OR 97504-8250  
(541) 776-6030  
Consultations:  
(541) 776-6016

## **Salem**

DAS Bldg. 1st. Floor  
1225 Ferry St. SE  
Salem, OR 97305-1330  
(503) 378-3274  
Consultations:  
(503) 373-7819

## **Bend**

Red Oaks Square  
1230 NE Third St., Ste. A-115  
Bend, OR 97701-4374  
(541) 388-6066  
Consultations:  
(541) 388-6068

## **Salem Central**

350 Winter St. NE, Rm. 430  
Salem, OR 97301-3882  
(503) 378-3272  
Fax: (503) 947-7461

*Visit us on the Internet World Wide Web:*  
**[www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org)**



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