Safe lift techniques

— An introduction to equipment designed to assist with safely lifting patients from beds and exam tables
Time to post the new calendar (and your Form 300A) in the breakroom and make a fresh start for safety and health in 2005.

The new year means new tools to help you build safer workplaces. The Oregon Nurses Association and several partners recently teamed up with the medical staff of Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay and, thanks to an OR-OSHA grant, produced an innovative video about how to safely lifting patients in health-care settings (see Page 4).

A comment made by one of the emergency-room nurses on the project struck me: “I’m one bad lift away from unemployment.”

That one phrase may speak volumes about why we need to prevent injuries. Work goes beyond providing comfort and a roof over our heads; work contributes to our lives and livelihoods. Despite the monetary benefits provided by disability insurance, workers’ compensation, and other “safety nets” should an accident or injury occur, we are all truly one serious injury away from being unable to fulfill our dreams, provide for our families, and enjoy life without barriers. One more reminder to prevent injuries from occurring today — people’s lives depend on it.

Ongoing training and effective supervision are still the two most important things that an employer can focus on to protect their workers. Oregon OSHA’s Safe Jobs, Smart Business initiative seeks to prevent workers from becoming injury statistics while it encourages economic growth in Oregon.

Everyone deserves to make it home from work safely every day. Let’s be careful out there.
Employers across the state are encouraged to take part in the third annual Safety Break for Oregon on May 11.

Oregon OSHA coordinates the one-day event, designed to raise awareness and showcase the value of workplace safety and health in preventing injuries and illnesses. The Safety Break for Oregon is flexible and adapts easily to an employer’s safety program. Last May, employers across Oregon found creative ways to recognize the value of safety in the workplace, honor safety achievements, salute safe workers, and demonstrate their commitment to keeping workplaces safe.

Information about this year’s Safety Break, including graphics for employers to use in promoting the event, is available on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org.

Safety Break for Oregon is an important component of the “Safe Jobs, Smart Business” education and outreach campaign launched last year by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The purpose of the campaign is to help employers plan ahead for working safely and reduce the cost of serious workplace accidents in Oregon.

For additional information about the Safety Break for Oregon or to let Oregon OSHA know about your Safety Break event, call (503) 947-7428.

Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit

Two hundred people participated in the Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit at Eagle Crest Resort near Redmond on January 31. The one-day training session was presented by the Central Oregon Safety and Health Association (COSHA) with assistance from Oregon OSHA. Here, participants update their knowledge about fall-protection systems.
New safety videos aim to keep health care workers healthy

Two new safety-training videos to help prevent back injuries among health-care workers and their patients, which were produced from a grant provided by Oregon OSHA, are available through the Oregon OSHA Resource Center.

The Oregon Nurses Association spearheaded a project team in 2004 to educate health-care workers in Oregon about safe lift techniques and introduce them to equipment designed to assist with safely lifting patients from beds and exam tables. A second video teaches patients’ family members about how safe lifting equipment can prevent injuries to patients and health-care workers.

“Family members were sometimes alarmed to see a health-care provider hoisting their loved one out of bed,” says Lynda Enos, RN, video project coordinator. “Not understanding how the equipment can protect the patient and the provider from a serious injury, some people refused to allow family members to be moved this way. There was a definite need to educate family members on what this equipment was for.”

“The video uses medical staff of Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay as actors.”

“We didn’t know a lot about new procedures and new equipment, so the video was educational for us,” says Kevin Rood, an emergency room nurse with Bay Area Hospital and one of the actors in the video. “Since the video was made, we’re using the safe lift techniques and equipment more. We have even loaned some equipment to a local ambulance company to help EMTs safely get patients into an ambulance. The equipment helps when the patient reaches us, too.”

Seconds count when an injured person is lifted out of an ambulance upon arrival at the hospital or lifted from a gurney onto an examination table. ER personnel are most at risk for lifting injuries during these procedures.

“Back injuries and poor lifts hit pretty close to home for us in the ER,” says Rood. “We joke that we’re all one bad lift away from unemployment.” Not all injuries are career-ending, but more than 500 Oregon health-care providers a year report serious back injuries due to sprains and strains, according to Workers’ Compensation Division data.
The education project produced two video presentations. “Safe Patient Handling in Health Care: Applied Ergonomics for Nurses and Health Care Workers” is the instructional video for medical professionals. The second video, for patients and their families, is “Safe Patient Handling in Health Care: Patient Orientation.” Each video comes with instructor and student manuals for safe-lift classes and a CD-ROM with additional resource materials.

Organizations that contributed support to the video project and assisted the ONA: Bay Area Hospital, Legacy Healthcare Systems, PeaceHealth, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Healthcare Systems, Labor Education and Research Center, Corvallis Health Services, SAIF Corporation, and Mt. Hood Community College Allied Health.

Oregon OSHA provides grant awards to nonprofit organizations (including associations, employee organizations, labor unions, labor-management partnerships and educational institutions) through the Safety and Health Education Grant Program. Oregon OSHA seeks innovative training projects that lead to injury and illness reduction in the health-care industry, agriculture, lumber and wood products industries, food processing and construction. For additional information about the Safety and Health Education Grant Program, go to the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org.

“We’re all one bad lift away from unemployment”
— Kevin Rood, ER Nurse, Bay Area Hospital

“Safe Patient Handling in Health Care: Applied Ergonomics for Nurses and Health Care Workers” and “Safe Patient Handling in Health Care: Patient Orientation” are available for loan from the Oregon OSHA Resource Center. Contact the Resource Center, (800) 922-2689 or visit online through the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org.
There’s more good news about doing business in Oregon. A recent study by the Department of Consumer & Business Services shows that Oregon workers’ compensation premium rates have continued to improve significantly relative to rates in other states. The report ranked Oregon premium rates at 42nd in the nation in 2004, better by seven positions from Oregon’s 2002 ranking.

“I’ve said before that one of the great — but often ignored — truths about Oregon is our favorable business climate,” Governor Ted Kulongoski said. “Oregon’s workers’ compensation rate ranking is a key component to this fact and continues to strengthen Oregon’s ability to compete in the national and global marketplace, not only in recruiting new businesses, but also in supporting and growing existing Oregon-based companies.”

The newest ranking is based on premium rates that went into effect January 1, 2004, for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. California retained its status as the most expensive state for average workers’ compensation premium rates, while North Dakota had the lowest rates. Oregon neighbors Washington and Idaho came in at 35th and 34th, respectively. Oregon’s index for 2004 stood at $2.05 per $100 of payroll.

The rate-ranking study is updated by DCBS research analysts every two years and reported to the legislature as a measure of workers’ compensation system performance. The first report, based on 1986 data, showed Oregon at that time with the sixth-highest rates in the nation. The state’s rank has improved steadily since then, due to 1990 reforms of the workers’ compensation system and ongoing improvements in workplace safety and health. The rate-ranking study is considered the only one of its kind nationally that is updated on a regular basis, so its results are often used as a benchmark in discussions of workers’ compensation issues in other states.

“It’s critical to note that as Oregon’s premium rate ranking has fallen, we have also improved benefit levels significantly for injured workers,” DCBS Director Cory Streisinger said. “For example, we have increased wage-replacement benefits when an injured worker is off work, and increased compensation for permanent disability. This success is not just about cutting costs for employers.”

Governor Kulongoski announced in September that average Oregon workers’ compensation pure-premium rates will remain flat in 2005, the third year in a row with no overall rate change. Oregon rates fell for 12 consecutive years from 1990 through 2002, for a total of 15 years of declining or flat rates and cumulative savings to employers of $10.1 billion in premium costs.

Source: Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon OSHA issues safety advisory on metal halide lamps

Oregon OSHA released a safety advisory in February to educate employers and workers about the hazard posed by ultraviolet (UV) light overexposures from broken metal halide lamps. In November 2004, almost half of the approximately 120 employees attending a meeting in a school gymnasium reported eye and skin irritation or sought medical attention in the several days following the meeting. The source of alleged UV overexposure was identified as a metal halide lamp with a broken protective cover.

Light measurements were conducted in the gymnasium by Oregon OSHA and by an environmental contractor using a broken bulb similar to the one present on the day of the exposure incident. Readings from intact bulbs were within acceptable national standards, while radiation from directly beneath the broken lamp reached the maximum allowed daily exposure levels for UV radiation within eight minutes.

The source of the excessive light radiation was a 400-watt metal halide bulb with a damaged outer protective cover. The bulb’s inner quartz tube continued to function properly and radiated light energy without the UV-filtering properties of the glass cover absorbing the UV radiation.

This form of lamp is common in many large building and outdoor facilities where lighting must cover a broad area such as gymnasiums, auditoriums, warehouses, warehouse retail stores, and sports facilities.

Oregon OSHA recommends the following to protect workers and visitors from possible UV overexposures:

- Educate workers about the potential hazard of UV light overexposure.
- Regularly inspect overhead lights for cracks or breakage.
- Use self-extinguishing metal halide lamps. When breakage occurs, these lamps shut down automatically; metal halide lamps with this feature are available.
- For existing lamps, consider an additional glass or plastic lens to screen UV rays. The protective lens fits beneath the light fixture.

There is more safety data in the 2005 National Electrical Code, Article 410.4 (E), which includes newly adopted requirements for lighting in sports, mixed-use, and all-purpose facilities. A key requirement of the code is that mercury vapor or metal halide lamps in such facilities must be fully enclosed behind a plastic or glass projective cover. Cages or external screens used to prevent objects from striking the lamps are permitted to assist with protection, but the cage cannot substitute for the required glass or plastic cover.

Two employers in Oregon OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program recently celebrated “Star” milestones

Timber Products Spectrum Division in White City, was awarded VPP Star status in January. Timber Products Spectrum had a lost-workday-injury rate during 2001-2003 that was 75 percent lower than the national industry average for specialty laminators.

Timber Products Spectrum Division employs 47 people at the White City facility, which manufactures laminated wood products used in furniture, shelving, cabinets, stage sets, and other applications. The company joined the Oregon OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) in May 1999 and achieved ‘VPP Merit’ status in 2003. ‘Merit’ sites meet many requirements of VPP while ‘Star’ sites achieve all safety-and-health-management requirements.

Oregon OSHA also celebrated a “VPP Star” renewal for Georgia-Pacific’s Philomath operations. Georgia-Pacific employs 140 people at the Philomath sawmill and planer facility, which manufactures dimensional lumber. The mill had a lost-workday-injury rate during 2001-2003 that was 80 percent lower than the national average for sawmills and planers.

Renewal of “Star” status for Georgia-Pacific Philomath is for a three-year period. The mill joined the Oregon OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) in May 1999 before achieving VPP “Merit” status in 2003, becoming the first employer in Oregon to graduate from SHARP to VPP status.

Georgia-Pacific Philomath is one of seven VPP sites in Oregon. The other VPP sites are Georgia-Pacific Coos Bay mill, Georgia-Pacific Toledo pulp and paper mill, Kerr McGee Chemical LLC in The Dalles, Marvin Wood Products in Baker City, PW Eagle in Eugene, and Timber Products Spectrum Division (TP Spectrum) in White City.
To register for the free training workshops offered by Oregon OSHA, fax your request on company letterhead to (503) 947-7462 or register on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org under “Education.” To ask about Oregon OSHA training, call (503) 947-7443 or call toll-free within Oregon, (888) 292-5247, Option 2.

### BEAVERTON

Portland Community College Capital Center, 18624 NW Walker Road in Beaverton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/6/05</td>
<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
<td>#215 CONFINED SPACE SAFETY</td>
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<td>4/6/05</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#220 MANAGING YOUR VEHICLE SAFETY PROGRAM</td>
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<td>4/7/05</td>
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<td>#301 FALL PROTECTION</td>
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<td>4/7/05</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#302 EXCAVATION SAFETY</td>
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<td>8:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#199 SAFETY COMMITTEE BASIC TRAINING</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20/05</td>
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<td>#104 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL</td>
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<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#106 WHAT TO EXPECT FROM AN OR-OSHA INSPECTION</td>
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### COOS BAY

Southwestern Oregon Community College Newmark Center, 2110 Newmark Avenue

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<td>8:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#600 2-DAY TRAIN THE TRAINER (Continues 4/13/05)</td>
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### EUGENE

Oregon OSHA Eugene field office, 1140 Willagillespie Road, Suite 42 in Eugene  
(near Valley River Center and the Delta Highway).

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
<td>#112 SAFETY AND THE SUPERVISOR</td>
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<td>#217 HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23/05</td>
<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
<td>#117 INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOR THE NON-IH</td>
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<td>3/23/05</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#216 EXPOSURE CONTROL/BLOODBORNE</td>
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<td>4/13/05</td>
<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
<td>#122 SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MANAGEMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13/05</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#126 RECOGNITION AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS</td>
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<td>4/14/05</td>
<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
<td>#201 ERGONOMICS AWARENESS</td>
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### KLAMATH FALLS

Klamath Falls Community College Room 310, 7390 South Sixth Street

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<td>4/6/05</td>
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<td>#499 SAFETY TRAINING AND YOUR HISPANIC WORKFORCE</td>
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<td>#221 FORKLIFT SAFETY</td>
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<td>#202 ERGONOMICS - BEFORE AND AFTER</td>
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continued on Page 10
### LEBANON

**Linn-Benton Community College - Lebanon Center, 44 Industrial Way**

<table>
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<td>#800</td>
<td>SFSB - SAFETY COMMITTEE TRAINING</td>
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### MCMINNVILLE

**McMinvile National Guard Armory, 333 Armory Way**

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<td>#204</td>
<td>LOCKOUT/TAGOUT AND MACHINE SAFEGUARDING</td>
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<td>3/23/05</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#205</td>
<td>HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM</td>
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### PENDLETON

**Blue Mountain Community College, Pioneer Hall Room 132, 2411 NW Carden**

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<td>SAFETY COMMITTEE BASIC TRAINING</td>
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<td>#107</td>
<td>SELLING SAFETY TO MANAGEMENT</td>
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<td>#112</td>
<td>SAFETY AND THE SUPERVISOR</td>
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### PORTLAND

**Sheet Metal Workers Training Center Room 221, 2379 NE 178th Avenue in Portland, near 181st and Interstate 84.**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>#117</td>
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<td>WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD</td>
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<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#205</td>
<td>HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM</td>
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**Where are the Safety Notes?**

Loyal readers of the *Oregon Health & Safety Resource* have made it very clear — you count on our Safety Notes feature in the center of *Resource* for teaching about accident prevention. *Resource* staff are retooling the layout of Safety Notes to meet the needs of business in the 21st century. Safety Notes will return in the Second Quarter 2005 issue of *Resource.*
SALEM

Labor and Industries Building, Basement Room C, 350 Winter Street NE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>#105 SAFETY TRAINING BASICS</td>
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<td>#106 WHAT TO EXPECT FROM AN OR-Osha INSPECTION</td>
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<td>#100 SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT</td>
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<td>4/21/05</td>
<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
<td>#499 SAFETY TRAINING AND YOUR HISPANIC WORKFORCE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#220 MANAGING YOUR VEHICLE SAFETY PROGRAM</td>
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SEASIDE

Clatsop Community College South County Center, 1761 North Holladay Drive

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4/6/05</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>#126 RECOGNITION AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS</td>
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Mark your calendar for these important dates for 2005!

February 1
300A forms must be posted
The summary of the past year’s occupational injuries and illnesses must remain posted in a workplace common area until April 30. For more information about record keeping or Form 300 or Form 300A, call Oregon OSHA’s Technical Section, (503) 378-3272.

April 28
Worker Memorial Day
Remember workers who have lost their lives on the job. For additional information, go to www.afl-cio.org.

April 29
Statewide observance of Worker Memorial Day during the 2005 Workplace Health and Safety in the Global Economy conference at the University of Oregon, Eugene. For additional information, go to darkwing.uoregon.edu/~lerc

May 1-7
North American Occupational Safety and Health Week For additional information, go to www.naosh.org.

May 11
Safety Break for Oregon
A one-day event to raise awareness and showcase the value of workplace safety and health in preventing injuries and illnesses. For additional information, go to www.orosha.org or call (503) 947-7428.

June 1-30
National Safety Month
For additional information, go to www.nsc.org.
One serious injury can stop the growth of your business in its tracks.

Oregon OSHA is committed to advancing workplace safety and health throughout our state. Our services help bring workers home safely to their families at the end of each day and have helped employers save $8.8 billion in workers’ compensation costs since 1990.

Training and supervision are vital for reducing injuries. Newly hired workers are especially at risk. In 2002, one-third of seriously injured workers had been on the job less than one year — 10 percent did not even make it through their first 30 days without a serious injury. Take the time to effectively train your workforce — a shortcut may cost your business in the long run.

Oregon OSHA has resources available to help you provide a safer place to work and contribute to the success of your business.

- **Consultation.** Oregon OSHA can come to your worksite and help you evaluate what your program for safety and health. Together, with an Oregon OSHA consultant, you will look for areas where improvements can be made. The consultation is free and will not trigger an enforcement action.

- **Training and Education.** Oregon OSHA offers safety-and-health workshops throughout the state, and online classes through the Oregon OSHA Web site. Training at your place of employment is also available. In addition, Oregon OSHA and its safety partners hold occupational safety-and-health conferences annually.

- **Recognition.** Employers that demonstrate commitment to workplace safety and health may qualify for Oregon OSHA’s Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) or Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Successful SHARP or VPP employers with a track record of safety are removed from Oregon OSHA’s scheduled inspection list.

- **Resource Center.** Oregon OSHA has publications and more than 900 videos and CD-ROMs with the latest training in workplace safety and health. These materials are available for loan to employers. Resource Center services are also available through the Oregon OSHA Web site.

Safe jobs are smart business.

Contact Oregon OSHA, (800) 922-2689 for more information, or find us on the Web: www.orosha.org.
Skanska recognized for safety at Bend and Redmond hospital projects

Skanska USA Building (Central and Southern Oregon Projects Division) was welcomed into the Oregon OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) in November for an exceptional commitment to safety during the expansion of the St. Charles Medical Centers in Bend and Redmond.

At the Bend and Redmond hospital projects, Skanska did not incur an injury causing a day of work to be lost or restricted during 2003. By comparison, the statewide average injury rate for the construction industry in Oregon for 2003 was 2.3 days of lost time or restricted duties.

Skanska’s contract includes 200,000 square feet of new construction at the Bend and Redmond campuses of Cascade Healthcare Community. The work during the first part of expansion at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend involved the added challenge of erecting steel, pouring and forming concrete, and installing electrical or plumbing infrastructure while working in a fully functioning hospital and trauma center.

SHARP is a recognition program that provides incentives for, and assistance to, Oregon employers and their employees to help them find and correct hazards, develop and implement effective safety-and-health programs, continuously improve, and become self-sufficient in managing occupational safety-and-health issues. Currently, 86 employers in Oregon participate in the safety-and-health recognition program.

Employees of active SHARP worksites retain all workplace-safety-and-health rights contained in the Oregon Safe Employment Act. Oregon employers who have been in business for more than one year are eligible to apply for SHARP, regardless of size or type of business.

For additional information about creating safer workplaces through the SHARP program, contact Mark Hurliman, Oregon OSHA, (503) 947-7437.
\textbf{Sisters SHARP employer makes safety easy on the hands and feet}

O’Keeffe’s Company, makers of Working Hands and Working Feet skin-therapy products, joined the Oregon OSHA Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) in February.

SHARP recognizes Oregon employers who have made a commitment to improving safety and health.

“Working with OSHA consultants Nancy Graf and Bruce DeRosier was a great experience,” said Ruth Hack, safety coordinator for O’Keeffe’s. “Their guidance and support throughout the safety-and-health assessment process has been a tremendous help and makes O’Keeffe’s commitment to exceed expectations enjoyable.”

“We’re very proud to receive the SHARP certification,” said Tara O’Keeffe-Broadbent, founder and president of O’Keeffe’s. “We’ve always set high standards for health and safety in our workplace, and this demonstrates the commitment of management and our employees to maintain an injury-free environment.”

O’Keeffe’s Company is a family-owned business based in Sisters since 2001. The Working Hands and Working Feet products were developed by Tara O’Keeffe-Broadbent to help her father, a rancher in the Klamath Basin who suffered from dried, cracked hands and feet, despite having tried numerous skin-care treatments and prescription medications. After several years of experimentation, she came up with a product that healed her father’s split, cracked skin. In 2002, the company won the Austin Family Business Award sponsored by Oregon State University for the best small business owned by a woman.
Questions?
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