

Health and Safety

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at Marvin Wood Products



Resource

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"The pillars of prevention include regularly providing water, rest, and shade; gradually adapting workers to hot environments; and training employees to recognize signs of trouble and to speak up about them."

[Read more on heat stress prevention ›](#)



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Pesticide rulemaking highlights challenges, strengths of Oregon's approach to rulemaking

by Michael Wood

At the end of June, Oregon OSHA adopted changes to the Pesticide Worker Protection Standard that were the result of the most extensive public comment process here at Oregon OSHA in memory.

In contrast to other Oregon OSHA rules that have generated significant interest – where the comments typically number in the dozens – the record of public comment on the pesticide rule, either in writing or in testimony recorded at one of five hearings, includes a total of 101 oral comments and another 938 written comments. At least 144 individuals attended at least one hearing, but did not make comments at it. Even after allowing for those who commented more than once, or who attended a hearing without speaking but who later commented in writing or at another hearing, the record is extensive. Nearly 1,100 people took the time to comment, to attend a hearing, or both.

The rulemaking was a challenging one, with strong feelings on both sides. And some of the arguments became personal. For example, one individual compared me to the North Korean dictator for pursuing the rule at all. From the opposite perspective, another arguing that the rule did little to protect workers

suggested that by pursuing it, I was killing babies.

Making a rulemaking decision in that context presented an unusual challenge – and that challenge was increased by the need to evaluate arguments made by people who not only had not read the rule in question, but who clearly did not understand what was in it or how it related to other existing state and federal regulations. Oregon OSHA's own discussion of the rulemaking record and the decisions we made runs 97 pages in length. While such an extensive record took time to evaluate and to give the arguments raised appropriate weight, this is exactly the participatory process that the Administrative Procedures Act envisions in requiring that the public be provided an opportunity to comment – particularly in the case of a rule where there is so much genuine disagreement among the parties.

And meeting that rulemaking challenge offers us benefits beyond the rule itself, I think. It forced us to think a bit more clearly about how and why we do rulemaking, and how to make decisions in those relatively infrequent cases where there is not some significant level of agreement about what we should do. We can benefit from those lessons as we move forward.



Oregon OSHA
Administrator



We endeavor to make our decisions with as complete an understanding of the available information, including research, related to the subjects at hand. We recognize that science will generally not itself dictate policy decisions, and the answers to certain questions may be either unclear or unavailable. Nonetheless, policy decisions should be informed by the available science and made in a manner that reflects an understanding of the science involved.

At the same time, Oregon OSHA also believes that policymaking, especially in the face of genuine risks to human health, can rarely afford to wait for “perfect” or “complete” science. Policy decisions cannot be made in the absence of information. But they also cannot wait until all questions are answered and all uncertainty erased – particularly when a decision not to act is itself a decision. Any rule we adopt will be based on the best available evidence. We are not, however, prepared to wait until a decision can be based upon the best conceivable evidence. Indeed, such a course would mean that no decisions would ever be made.

Many argued that the rule could and should be more protective, and that we were too solicitous of concerns about cost and feasibility. Others suggested we were not giving those concerns adequate weight.

Oregon OSHA believes strongly in its worker protection mission, which includes a particular responsibility to those workers who, for one reason or another, are

among the most vulnerable. But we also recognize the need to balance rulemaking to ensure that rules can feasibly be implemented, both economically and technologically. Risks can certainly be reduced, and we frequently encounter both employers and workers who are prepared to accept an inappropriate level of such risk. But we must also acknowledge that risk cannot be eliminated from the workplace (nor from any aspect of our lives, for that matter). It is incumbent on an agency with broad rulemaking authority such as Oregon OSHA to exercise that authority thoughtfully and judiciously.

Sometimes, those choices are clear. In other cases, they are less so. But in all cases, we must do our best to balance the arguments made and to make a decision that will provide workers meaningful protections in the least burdensome manner available to us. ●

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. D. W.", located below the text.

Don't miss...

Education: July-August workshops

July 24, 2018 • Eugene

8 a.m. Safety Meetings and Committees

1 p.m. Accident Investigation

August 15, 2018 • Wilsonville

8 a.m. Forklift Safety

1 p.m. Hazard Identification and Control

August 30, 2018 • Salem

8 a.m. Confined Space Safety

1 p.m. Forklift Safety

For more information:

osha.oregon.gov/edu

For the most recent public
education schedule updates:
osha.oregon.gov/edu/workshops



September 18 & 19, 2018

Riverhouse on the Deschutes • Bend, Oregon

This event helps your organization improve workplace safety and health performance. Topics include information for all experience levels.

Registration opens in late July.

Cost to attend: \$55-\$210

More information available at:
safetyseries.cvent.com/central18

*This conference is a joint effort of the
Central Oregon Safety & Health Association
(COSHA), and Oregon OSHA.*



October 16-18, 2018

Ashland Hills Hotel • Ashland

Exhibits • Awards • Workshops

Professional Development and Keynote Speaker

Bob Edwards, The H.O.P. Coach - Founder

October 16: Human and Organizational
Performance Fundamentals

October 17: Failure and Success,
They aren't that Different!

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*This conference is a joint effort of the
American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP),
Southern Oregon Chapter, and Oregon OSHA.*

To receive registration materials, exhibitor information, or sponsorship information for the 2018 events,
contact the Conference Section: oregon.conferences@oregon.gov | 503-947-7411

Did you know?

Workers at greater risk of heat stress include those who are 65 years old and older, are overweight, have heart disease or high blood pressure, or take medications that may be affected by extreme heat.

To prevent heat illness, drink water every 15 minutes; rest in the shade when you need to cool down; wear a hat and light-colored clothing; take it easy on your first days of work in the heat; and watch for symptoms in your co-workers.

If not treated, heat exhaustion – the symptoms of which include dizziness, headache, and sweaty skin – can lead to heat stroke. The symptoms of heat stroke include red, dry skin; confusion; and fainting. Heat stroke can kill you.



Quotable

“The leadership skills necessary to motivate a person to work safely are the same skills people use to achieve operational performance.”

– **Greg Anderson**, expert in providing behavior-based safety and leadership training for companies across the globe.

Datapoints



Surfaces that exceed 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) are sources of infrared radiation that can add to a worker's heat load



Workers should not be permitted to work when their deep body temperature exceeds 38 degrees Celsius (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists



The minimum exposure time for achieving heat acclimatization is at least two hours per day, which may be broken into one-hour exposures



A heat wave occurs when the daily maximum temperature exceeds 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) or when the daily maximum temperature exceeds 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit) and is 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) or more above the maximum reached on the preceding days.

Dealing with dust: A guide to Oregon OSHA's new silica rules

By Ellis Brasch

Silica: the danger is in the dust

Silica dust contains particles of crystalline silica, one of the most common minerals on earth. Silica dust particles are small. Very, very small. The ones that make you sick and can eventually kill you are between 2 and 5 micrometers in diameter – about 30 times smaller than the width of a single human hair.

Because silica is almost everywhere in our natural environment – in soil, sand, rocks, and manufactured products that contain the mineral – it's easy to generate lots of dust simply by cutting, sawing, drilling, crushing, or processing the material. Those minute silica particles tend to stay suspended in the air longer than larger particles, which increases their risk of being inhaled. If you do inhale them, these particles penetrate deep into your lungs and begin to damage the tissue. Because the particles are permanently trapped, the lung tissue scars and forms small masses called nodules.

The nodules grow over time, which makes breathing increasingly difficult. The effect is irreversible and can be fatal, resulting in a disease called



silicosis. When exposures are low, but frequent, workers may not show symptoms for 10 or more years; they develop a condition called *chronic silicosis*. As exposure levels increase, symptoms can appear within five years, resulting in *accelerated silicosis*. Workers exposed to extremely high levels of silica dust may develop *acute silicosis*, a condition that can show symptoms within only a few weeks of an initial exposure.

A quick tour of Oregon OSHA's new silica rules

Oregon OSHA's [new silica rules](#) (there are 13) were written to help general industry and construction employers prevent their employees from being overexposed to silica dust. Most of the requirements became effective July 1, 2018. There is one exception for medical surveillance that will become effective on July 1, 2020, under recent rulemaking proposed by Oregon OSHA. Here is a rundown on the key requirements:

Know your numbers: the permissible exposure limit and the action level

The permissible exposure limit. The permissible exposure limit – or PEL – is the amount of silica dust a worker is legally allowed to breathe in over an eight-hour period. That amount is 50 micrograms of crystalline silica per cubic meter of air. That's about 840 micrograms of silica dust for a typical worker over an eight-hour day. Keep in mind, however, that there is a lot of variation between tasks, workers, and the time they spend on a task. For example, even a few hours of concrete cutting can generate enough silica dust to exceed the PEL by many thousands of times.

The action level. The action level – 25 micrograms of crystalline silica per cubic meter of air – is essentially a warning to employers that they need to “take action” to prevent their employees from being overexposed. Many of the requirements in the new silica rules also take effect when workers' exposure levels exceed the action level.

Understanding the exposure assessment

One way to know whether your employees are over-exposed to silica dust is to measure their breathing while they are working. It's called an exposure assessment, which is done by a procedure called air monitoring; essentially, a battery-operated vacuum attached to a worker's shirt collar collects an air sample as the worker does a task. The exposure assessment is somewhat more complicated when more than one worker is involved, but the air monitoring procedure is similar. The air samples are then sent to an accredited lab that determines the amount of silica dust in each sample and calculates each worker's exposure level.

Exposures below the action level. If the initial air monitoring results come back from the lab and show that the workers were exposed to silica below the action level, you can discontinue monitoring those workers as long as they continue to do the same tasks under the same conditions.

Exposures above the PEL. If the initial lab results show that the workers were exposed above the PEL, you must repeat the monitoring within three months. You may need to repeat the monitoring several more times to confirm whether the workers remain exposed above the PEL. While those exposures remain above the PEL, you must use engineering and work practice controls, and possibly respirators, to limit the workers' exposure.

Who can do exposure assessments?

You can do the exposure assessment yourself if you know how to do it and if you have the right equipment, which you can rent. You can also hire a consultant or get help with initial air monitoring from Oregon OSHA or from your workers' compensation insurance carrier.

Is the exposure assessment absolutely necessary?

There are two other options: a *performance option* for all employers and *Table 1* for employers who do construction and construction-like activities.

The performance option. The performance option allows employers to use *objective data*, which can include historical monitoring data, air monitoring data based on industrywide studies, or engineering calculations for similar tasks and work environments.

Table 1. Table 1 (see 437-002-1057) lists 18 common construction tasks that create high levels of silica dust and describes the engineering controls, work practices, and respiratory protection necessary for each task. When you follow the control methods in Table 1, you are not required to conduct an exposure assessment. A common misunderstanding about Table 1 is that respirators are always necessary to protect employees. Respirators are necessary for some Table 1 tasks, but only when engineering and work practice controls do not keep silica dust at acceptable levels.

Engineering and work practice controls: they're essential

You must use engineering and work practice controls to keep your employees' exposure to silica dust at or below the PEL – or as low as possible if these methods are not enough to reduce exposures below the PEL. Appropriate respirators are required when engineering and work practice controls do not keep the exposure levels at or below the PEL. Remember, you must still use all feasible engineering and work-practice controls to keep employees' exposures as low as possible, even when they are wearing respirators.



Put it in writing: the exposure control plan

The exposure control plan is important because it describes exactly how you are keeping your employees' exposures at or below the PEL. The plan must be in writing and list each task that exposes the employees to silica dust, as well as the exposure control measures you are using for each task. Those measures must include the engineering and work practice controls, the respirators used, and the housekeeping practices used to clean up silica dust.

If your employees are doing construction or construction-like activities and following the control measures for one of the activities listed in Table 1, you must also designate a competent person who will inspect the site frequently to make sure silica dust is being controlled.

You also need to review the plan every year and update it when tasks change.

Limited access: regulated and restricted areas

Only authorized employees may enter areas where they could be exposed to silica dust above the PEL. They are called regulated areas at fixed sites and restricted areas at construction sites. Each entrance to a regulated area must have a warning sign that requires authorized personnel to wear respirators. Written procedures are required to limit access to restricted areas at construction sites and a competent person must ensure that the procedures are followed.

Medical surveillance

Because silica's health effects may not become apparent for many years, routine medical exams are essential for workers who may be exposed to silica dust. Medical surveillance is a term used to describe the monitoring your employees need to ensure their exposure to silica dust does not affect their health. Medical surveillance includes medical exams, chest X-rays, and lung function tests.

Currently, Oregon OSHA is proposing changes to its medical surveillance requirements in 437-002-1062. Under the proposed changes, medical surveillance is required, starting July 1, 2018, for those employees who do construction work and use a respirator 30 or more days a year. Medical surveillance is also required starting July 1, 2018, for employees who do not do construction work and are exposed to silica dust at or above the *permissible exposure level* 30 or more days per year.

Also under the proposed changes, on July 1, 2020, medical surveillance will be required for employees who do not do construction work and are exposed to silica dust at or above the *action level* level 30 or more days per year.

[Oregon OSHA expects to complete this proposed rulemaking in July.](#)

Medical surveillance must be provided at no cost to the employee by a physician or other licensed health care professional. New employees must have initial or baseline medical exams within 30 days after their hire dates unless they have had a similar exam within the past three years.



Hazard communication and recordkeeping

Make sure to include silica dust on the list of hazardous substances in your hazard communication program. Silica-containing products also must have safety data sheets and employees must understand how silica dust can affect their lungs, kidneys, and immune systems, and can cause cancer.

Employees must also understand all the parts of the exposure control plan, including the tasks that could expose them to silica dust and the methods used to limit their exposure.

Your records must also include detailed information on all air monitoring data from your employees' exposure assessments, including objective data if you used it. You also need to keep an accurate record – in accordance with Oregon OSHA's "Access to employee exposure and medical records" requirements – for each employee covered by medical surveillance. ●

Heat stress prevention

By Aaron Corvin

As summer temperatures rise, so do the dangers of working in high heat.

That's especially true in Oregon, where workers tend to be used to working in mild weather and are frequently not accustomed to high temperatures.

As a result, it's important for employers to focus on prevention. The pillars of prevention include regularly providing water, rest, and shade; gradually adapting workers to hot environments; and training employees to recognize signs of trouble and to speak up about them.

In fact, employers are encouraged to fill out a heat illness prevention plan. The plan outlines everything from risk factors and precautionary steps to locations of water and cooling areas. It also assigns responsibilities, including who will conduct initial and refresher training.

"It's the employer's accountability," Lori Cohen, an industrial hygienist and health compliance officer for Oregon OSHA, said of the prevention plan. "It tells them what they're going to be doing."

Employers don't have to start from scratch, either. Oregon OSHA offers a [sample heat illness prevention plan](#). The sample plan is part of a larger heat stress emphasis program run by Oregon OSHA.

Under the program, the agency's [enforcement](#) and [consultation](#) activities include a review of employers' plans to deal with heat exposure, especially from June 15 through Oct. 1 of each year.

The emphasis program applies to both outdoor job sites and indoor workplaces where potential heat-related hazards may exist. From an enforcement perspective, Oregon OSHA addresses heat stress through various rules. Those include general environmental controls, extraordinary hazards, sanitation, and personal protective equipment.



**Stopping for water
keeps you going.**

Asking the right questions

Oregon OSHA's [webpage about heat stress](#) offers more information with which to build your knowledge, including the federal OSHA [heat stress app](#) for mobile phones.



What you don't want to let build up is neglect – the enemy of prevention.

Staying ahead of things is paramount. "You can't wait for the day that's hot to start drinking water," Cohen said. That's especially true for workers in construction, agriculture, and other labor-intensive activities.

Communication is important, Cohen added. Employers need to talk to employees about recognizing signs of trouble: headaches, cramps, dizziness, fatigue, and nausea. Asking the right questions is critical, too. Do your employees know when and where to take breaks? Sure, your work site has an air conditioner. But do you check it periodically to make sure it actually works?

Meanwhile, employees need to speak up when they have concerns. A [safety committee](#), Cohen said, is an excellent place to raise and address concerns about working in hot environments. (With few exceptions, all employers in Oregon must have a safety committee or hold safety meetings.)

When employers fail to plan ahead and communicate and inspect equipment, they risk exposing workers to heat-related illnesses. And during hot weather, especially with high humidity, body temperature can surge to alarming levels if workers don't drink enough water and don't rest in the shade. They can suffer from heat cramps, exhaustion, or stroke.

In fact, from 2012 to 2017, 37 people received benefits through Oregon's workers' compensation system for heat-related illnesses. For employers, the consequences of failing to heed the call of prevention are clear: In 2017 alone, Oregon OSHA cited 291 violations associated with heat-stress inspections, with initial penalties totaling \$44,820.

Ask Technical

Question:

We have annual fire extinguisher training that we require our full-time employees to take. Would our requirement apply to temporary employees who are working on site at one of our locations?

Answer:

As the host employer, you would be responsible for providing any necessary site-specific training (such as hazard communication or the control of hazardous energy) and ensuring that the training meets Oregon OSHA's requirements.

If you have direction and control over the temporary employees, then you must include them in the fire extinguisher training if you allow them to use the extinguishers. However, if the temporary-employee agency has supervisors on site who exercise direction and control over those employees, then the temporary-employee agency would be responsible for training them.

Practical tips

Yet, the human suffering and financial costs of heat stress are avoidable.

They are, in fact, preventable.

To that end, here are some best practices to follow:

- Perform the heaviest, most labor-intensive work during the coolest part of the day.
- Use the buddy system (work in pairs) to monitor the heat.
- Drink plenty of cool water (one small cup every 15 to 20 minutes).
- Wear light, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing (such as cotton).
- Take frequent short breaks in cool, shaded areas – allow your body to cool down.
- Avoid eating large meals before working in hot environments.
- Avoid caffeine and alcoholic beverages (these make the body lose water and increase the risk of heat illnesses).

To help those suffering from heat exhaustion:

- Move them to a cool, shaded area. Do not leave them alone.
- Loosen and remove heavy clothing.
- Provide cool water to drink (a small cup every 15 minutes) if they are not feeling sick to their stomach.
- Try to cool them by fanning them. Cool the skin with a spray mist of cold water or a wet cloth.
- If they do not feel better in a few minutes, call 911 for emergency help.

Ignoring the dangers of heat stress is not an option. Neither is hoping for a future of mild summers. Heat stress is poised to become an even bigger concern in the years ahead, according to a 2016 federal report, [“Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments.”](#)

That’s because, as the report notes, “there is evidence that heat stress is an increasing problem for many workers, particularly those located in densely populated areas closer to the equator where temperatures are expected to rise in relation to the changing climate.”

All the more reason to stay laser-focused on the task at hand: prevention. ●





Short take

Ceremony honors fallen Oregon workers

Family members filled rows of chairs under a large tent. One by one, government, labor, and religious leaders took the podium. Each leader spoke of lives cut short, of heartbreak, of the unfinished project of bolstering on-the-job safety and health.

All of those who gathered on April 27 in Salem did so to remember Oregon workers who died on the job in 2017, to grieve the loss of loved ones. The Workers Memorial Day observance took place at the Fallen Workers Memorial outside the Labor and Industries Building.

State Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon read aloud the names of the 48 workers who died on the job in 2017. Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA, said each name represents a “tragedy, a death that should not have happened.”

“By your presence here,” Wood said to the families, “you demand of me - and all of us - that we must do better.”

Elana Pirtle-Guiney, workforce and labor policy advisor to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, read the Workers Memorial Day proclamation. The Rev. Richard Davis of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem led an invocation and moment of silence during the event, which is coordinated by the Oregon AFL-CIO. A member of the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Pipe and Drums played “Amazing Grace.”

The annual Workers Memorial Day serves as a nationwide day of remembrance. It recognizes the thousands of U.S. workers who die each year on the job and the more than 1 million people in the U.S. who are injured each year at work. The observance is traditionally held on April 28 because Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act on that date in 1970. ●

Short take

Sprague High School student wins safety video contest

Eden McCall, a student at Sprague High School in Salem, won \$500 for her first-place video titled “The Silent Condition” in an annual safety video contest that promotes young worker safety and the importance of speaking up.

The video, which deftly blends voiceover narration, body language, and props, features a teen worker who suffers from being silent on the job and, as a result, gets needlessly exposed to safety hazards. However, with knowledge, confidence, and “an extra 10 decibels,” as the narrator puts it, teen workers have the power to overcome the silent condition, and to speak up and work safe.

Sprague High School also won a matching amount of prize money.

During the development of her video, McCall said, she learned “there are solutions for hazardous work environments, and what I tried to highlight in my video was to be knowledgeable about worker safety practices and laws, confident in your ability to speak up in a bad situation, and if necessary, to raise your voice to stay safe in the workplace.”



A second-place prize was awarded, and two teams tied for third place and won prizes. They are as follows:



Second place (\$400)

"Safety Joe"

Crescent Valley High School, Corvallis

Created by:

Alex Vartanov, Daniel Mason



Third place (\$300)

"Welcome to Recyc Corp"

Parkrose High School, Portland

Created by:

Chad McAdams, Trevaughn Terry, Juney Prasad,
Ashton Caudle, Calvin Haynes, Gabe Gothro,
Jacob Mansfield, Christian Olney, Kyle Noble,
Peter Phan, Eddie Penalver, Sarah Wilson,
Jade Spencer, Waymond Crowder, Mary Dinh,
Brianna Benjamin, Mason Swinehart, J.R. Sanders,
Lauren Robanske, Phong Ta, Janos Wilson,
James Rosengrant, Josh Weir, Franco Duran



Third place (\$300)

"Memories"

Summit High School, Bend

Created by:

Cedar Vickery, Jadon Berg

The creators of the top videos were presented their awards in April during a special screening at Northern Lights Theatre and Pub in Salem. Sponsored by the [Oregon Young Employee Safety Coalition \(O\[yes\]\)](#), the annual video contest focuses on teen workers, who are twice as likely to be injured on the job, according to federal studies.

All of the winning videos, as well as the other finalists, are available for viewing on [YouTube](#). ●

Short take

Companies take a Safety Break for Oregon

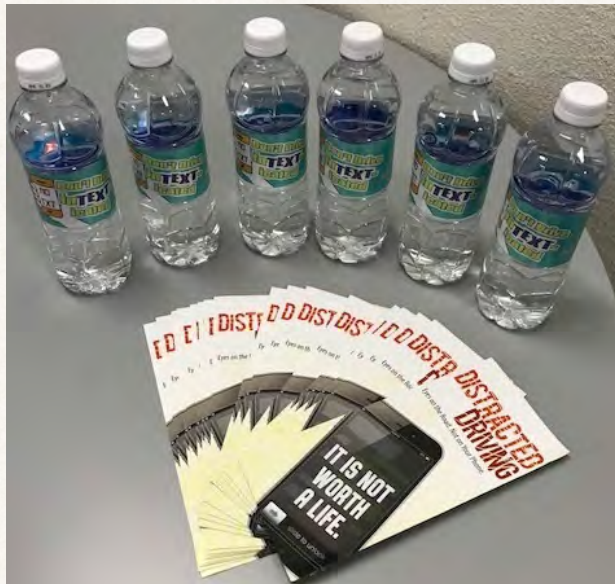
More than 50 companies, nonprofits, and local governments participated in Safety Break for Oregon on May 9.

Their activities included toolbox safety discussions, games and quizzes designed to identify hazards, training on fire extinguishers, ergonomics presentations, and workshops on preventing distracted driving. The 15th year of the event encouraged employers and workers to collaborate to bolster workplace safety and health with training, award recognition gatherings, or other creative activities. As part of the event, Boise Cascade Kinzua Lumber, Comcast Tigard Business Center, and Bend Park and Recreation each won a \$100 prize for a luncheon of their choice. The prizes were awarded to event participants in a random drawing. The Oregon SHARP Alliance sponsored the contest.



City of Harrisburg

The city of Harrisburg undertook fire extinguisher training as part of Safety Break for Oregon.



Comcast – Salem

During Safety Break for Oregon, Comcast in Salem focused on prevention of distracted driving.



LMC Construction

LMC Construction celebrated the Safety Break event at various job sites, gathering employees for breakfast and giving gift cards to employees and subcontractors. Pictured is April O'Neal, a member of the LMC team, who received a safety award. ●

Short take

Oregon OSHA wins an OSCAR

Oregon OSHA Consultation Services received an On-Site Consultation Achievement Recognition (OSCAR) award from federal OSHA on May 2. Federal OSHA's Region 10 office submitted the nomination for the award.

The award recognized Oregon OSHA Consultation's contribution to the multi-agency effort to clean up lead in a commercial building in Salem in March 2017. Among the principal investigators was Oregon OSHA consultant and industrial hygienist **Mike Fajer**, who retired from the agency late last year.

The Salem building previously housed the operations of a battery manufacturer and had deed restrictions since the late 1990s after cleanup to remove lead-contaminated concrete flooring and soil. In early February 2017, the state Department of Environmental Quality recommended that the new building owner test for lead. Dust wipe samples taken in the building later that month found lead dust levels of thousands of micrograms per square foot and significantly above national health standards.

Businesses inside the building included a gym, a catering business, a roller skating rink, and a microbrewery that was under construction at the time.

The owner agreed to close the building on March 30 at the request of the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon OSHA. However, Oregon OSHA consultants worked with the building owner to conduct air monitoring during and after cleanup of the interior.

Oregon OSHA Consultation Services also received an OSCAR in 2014 for the PESO program, a Spanish outreach program created by Oregon OSHA consultant **Tomas Schwabe**. ●





Short take

Oregon OSHA, home builders group ink alliance

Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Home Builders Association (OHBA) signed an alliance this month that continues their commitment to work together to raise awareness about safety in the residential construction industry.

Michael Wood, administrator for Oregon OSHA, and Jodi Hack, CEO of the Oregon Home Builders Association, signed the alliance during a meeting at the Labor & Industries Building in Salem.

Both organizations will collaborate to achieve the primary goals of increasing awareness about “fall and motor vehicle safety hazards,” according to the alliance, and, ultimately, “to reduce illness and injury rates among employees in the residential construction industry in Oregon.”

The alliance calls for the organizations to contribute to the statewide dialogue on workplace safety and health, including encouraging OHBA members to participate in Oregon OSHA’s cooperative programs and sharing information among Oregon OSHA personnel about OHBA’s best practices. ●



Safety Notes

Accident Report

Incident: Amputation
Industry: Manufacturing
Worker: Press operator

What happened?

A worker lost part of his right index finger when it was crushed in an 80-ton press.

How did it happen?

A press operator was operating a Komatsu 80-ton press when it jammed. The product (metal washers) was not dropping down the chute properly to the die, so he asked another machine operator to come over and help him troubleshoot the problem.

While his co-worker was contemplating the cause, the press operator pointed to a stuck washer with his right index finger. He also thought the machine was off. In fact, he and his co-worker had shut down the press, but the infeed still had stored pneumatic energy equivalent to 90 psi. Complicating the situation was the fact that he was not an authorized lockout/tagout employee, nor did he have any lockout/tagout training. But it was a moot point because the company did not have any written, machine-specific procedures to safely shut down and lockout the Komatsu 80-ton press.

When the press operator touched the washer, the infeed suddenly pushed down two more inches of product, which amputated his finger at the first knuckle.

His co-worker immediately went to get the first-aid person, but the first-aid person was not in the shop. So, the co-worker grabbed the emergency list to see where to send the injured machine operator for treatment. Meanwhile, another employee helped the machine operator wrap his finger, then took him to a nearby urgent care center, which then redirected him to a hospital where he was treated and released later in the day. The machine operator returned to the hospital two weeks later for hand surgery and then returned to work a month after the incident.

The tool die in the picture was the die installed to stamp the metal washers. As the washers are stamped, the infeed pushes them down the tray; when new material is in place, the machine punches two more metal washers and pushes them down the tray.



This was the material being stamped at the time of the accident. The injured worker was stamping metal washers from the material.

Violations

1910.147(c)(4)(ii): Procedures shall clearly and specifically outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules, and techniques to be utilized for the control of hazardous energy, and the means to enforce compliance.

1910.147(c)(6)(i): The employer shall conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure at least annually to ensure that the procedure and the requirements of this rule are being followed.

1910.147(c)(7)(i)(A): Each authorized employee did not receive training in the recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy available in the workplace, and the methods and means necessary for energy isolation and control. ●



The tape is measuring the infeed, which was energized to approximately 90 psi. When the press operator put his finger into the punch section and freed the stuck washer, it energized the section, cycled two inches of material forward, and amputated his finger.



At the time of the incident, the infeed had stored pneumatic energy because the green air valve handle was not shut off.

Going the Distance

Company:

Marvin Wood Products

Safety coordinator:

Ray Illingsworth

Workforce/operations:

Based in Baker City, Marvin Wood Products provides cut stock, clear finger-jointed cut stock, and veneer and constructed parts for Marvin Windows and Doors. It employs 165 people.

Responsibilities/hazards addressed:

My responsibilities include inspecting the work environment, and machinery and equipment – both new and existing; creating, maintaining, and updating safe work practices, and safety and health programs and policies; and coordinating safety training for both experienced employees and new hires. I'm an active special government employee – a federal program that allows industry experts to work alongside OSHA, especially during on-site examinations conducted under the Voluntary Protection Program – and I'm on the planning team for the Blue Mountain Safety and Health Conference.



Ray Illingsworth, safety coordinator for Marvin Wood Products in Baker City, says a key measure of success is the increased reporting of near misses, which “helps address issues before they become more serious.”



Marvin Wood Products has achieved Star Status with Oregon OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. That's not an easy accomplishment, given the rigors of VPP. What has surprised you most about the challenge of maintaining VPP status?

Maintaining our incident rate at or below the industry standard. We have managed this well, but it is still a challenge at times.

Illingsworth's message to would-be safety professionals is to "learn all that you can," including taking safety courses, attending conferences, and talking to others in the profession.

When it comes to your line of work, how do you measure success?

One way I measure success is when I see a change in our culture and people. Six years ago, we began conducting an annual employee survey. One of the questions is: "Do you feel your workplace is safe?" This question has received the highest ranking on the survey for all six years. This validates that what we are doing is having a positive impact on our workforce, and that our workforce recognizes it. They care.

Another measure of success is the increased reporting of near misses. As we move from being reactive to being proactive, we have seen our employees report more of these types of things, which helps address issues before they become more serious.



What is some advice you'd give to those looking to improve safety and health at their workplace or for others seeking a career in this field?

To improve safety, employee involvement is crucial. Get employees involved with your various teams. They are the ones who are operating the machinery and doing the work out on the floor. Get their ideas and then use those ideas, and if you don't use what they suggest, then get back to them. When you get your employees involved with what you're doing, including making changes to existing processes or creating new procedures, then you gain acceptance and adherence so much quicker. It gives employees a sense of ownership in their work environment.

For others seeking a career in this field, learn all that you can. Take some courses on safety, go to safety conferences, and learn from the speakers. Talk to OSHA and others in the profession. There are a lot of experienced people doing this who have seen and done a lot. They are always willing to share ideas and help. Along with that, keep your employees involved with safety and try to keep it fresh. ●

Involving employees in improving safety gives them "a sense of ownership in their work environment," according to Illingsworth.