Health and Safety RESOURCE

Oregon OSHA • October – December 2019 • *Volume 68 – online*

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Resource

Oregon Health and Safety Resource is published every other month by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

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Planning our future: "Action 2025 Agenda"

By Michael Wood

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A few months ago, we convened nearly 50 staff from throughout Oregon OSHA to engage in a planning initiative – our goal was to begin to define Oregon OSHA's public policy focus over the next five years. This "Action 2025" public policy agenda is intended to focus Oregon OSHA's efforts to address significant public policy issues related to workplace health and safety, whether involving rulemaking, other enforcement initiatives, or major outreach efforts. The focus was expressly on how to make the best use of Oregon OSHA's public policy tools – this particular effort was not intended to address operational improvements (work flow streamlining, improving our data management systems, etc.).

The two-day meeting evaluated 49 suggestions from throughout the agency. Those who participated did some extraordinary work to understand and then evaluate the various proposals. Some of the proposals that did not continue as part of the Action 2025 agenda will take on life in other forms – for example, a suggestion to reinvigorate the "agency expert" list of staff resources will be addressed as part of this spring's all-staff training symposium.

The list below reflects the outcome of those initial discussions (as well as incorporating certain public policy efforts that have already been launched but that will continue well into the five-year period covered by the plan).

Ultimately, this "Action 2025" agenda will become the basis for both a regulatory agenda and an ongoing outreach agenda. However, even though we have narrowed the list to roughly one-third of the issues that were initially suggested, we really do not have the organizational capability to pursue all of the remaining items (as well as whatever other initiatives will inevitably develop, driven by federal action, legislative discussions, or stakeholder inquiries). So for those of you who are particularly excited (or particularly troubled) by the presence of an item on the list, now is your chance to provide feedback – which you can do directly by sending an email to me at Michael.Wood@oregon.gov.

Here is the current list of "candidates," in no particular order:

- Continue updates to outdated exposure limits (lead, manganese, and then ?)
- Build upon and expand the activities begun by the 2019 vulnerable workers/Spanish speakers conference
- Develop and adopt a comprehensive rule addressing the hazards of workplace violence (focusing on issues other than employee-versus-employee violence)
- Update the existing noise and hearing protection rule







- Complete a comprehensive update to the forest activities rule (Division 7)
- Develop and adopt a rule addressing safer patient and resident handling in health care and related fields
- Remove and/or narrow "agriculture exemption" that prevents us from using Division 2 or Division 3 for issues not fully addressed by Division 4
- Develop and adopt a rule addressing manual material handling
- Develop and adopt a rule addressing heat illness prevention
- Develop and adopt a rule updating and broadening the existing multi-employer worksite guidance

- Update requirements related to protection of workers in road construction work zones
- Modify the controlling hazardous energy (lockout/tagout) rule to eliminate the focus on unexpected startup
- Update and provide clearer criteria for assessing anchor strength in relation to fall protection, either through rulemaking or regulatory interpretation
- Update and clarify requirements protecting workers from the hazards of existing underground utilities
- Develop and implement one or more emphasis

programs related to cannabis harvest and extraction/processing

- Develop outreach materials and strategies to address hazards involved in cleaning up and/or administering homeless camps
- Develop a rule that confirms and updates guidance regarding the various Oregon OSHA consultation activities (specifically addressing the overarching program, but also the unique circumstances of 21-d and public sector consultations)

We will be discussing this list of potential candidates in a variety of forums over the coming months. But, as I noted above, I'd welcome any thoughts you choose to share about the items on the list and which ones you would consider to be the most important priorities (I'm particularly interested in feedback on those that would require rulemaking resources).

While I'm a bit stunned to realize that 2025 is only five years away, the next five years will be challenging ones for all of us in workplace health and safety as we work to push risks down even further. And I am convinced that we at Oregon OSHA can influence those efforts best if we better focus our efforts to bring our various public policy tools to bear on the most important problems we face. At heart, it is not an academic discussion – it is about real workers and real employers and real consequences.

Thank you in advance for any feedback you may offer.



Don't miss..

Education: December-February workshops

Jan. 15, 2020 – Eugene 8 a.m. Worker Protection Standard 1 p.m. Hazard Communication Aligned with GHS

Jan. 16, 2020 – Roseburg 8 a.m. Worker Protection Standard 1 p.m. Hazard Communication Aligned with GHS

Feb. 25, 2020 – Milwaukie 8 a.m. Fall protection 10 a.m. Excavation safety

Feb. 26, 2020 – Medford 8 a.m. Fall protection 1 p.m. Excavation safety

For more information: osha.oregon.gov/edu

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19th Biennial

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- New Safety Program Tips
- Walking, Working Surfaces and Fall Protection
- Change Management
- Human Resources: Legal Updates
- Wellness/Total Worker Health
- Hearing Conservation
- Respiratory Protection
- Workplace Leadership at all Levels

To receive registration materials, exhibitor information, or sponsorship information for the 2020 events, contact the Conference Section: <u>oregon.conferences@oregon.gov</u> | 503-947-7411 | <u>osha.oregon.gov/conferences</u>



In addition to its enforcement activities, Oregon OSHA offers resources to help improve workplace safety and health. Those resources include:

Technical staff members who can answer questions about rules and how to apply them:

Phone: 503-378-3272 Toll-free in Oregon: 800-922-2689 Email: <u>tech.web@oregon.gov</u> Online <u>contact form</u>

No-cost consultation services for help with safety and health programs:

Phone: 503-378-3272 Toll-free in Oregon: 800-922-2689 Field office locations and phone numbers Email: consult.web@oregon.gov

A website housing everything from an <u>A-to-Z topic</u> index, and <u>rules and laws</u>, to special resources for new employers and small businesses.

Quotable

"Rather than looking at the accident in hindsight, workers and management process the situation with the idea that accidents will happen because work is performed by humans, and we are not perfect."

 Todd Conklin, human and organization performance consultant based in Santa Fe, N.M., on the "human performance" view of workplace systems and safety.

Datapoints

Oregon OSHA's top 10 safety and health violations for 2019

Rank	Rule	Description	Viola- tions	Total initial penalties
Top 10 safety violations				
1	437-003-1501(1)	Fall protection	406	\$1,021,100
2	437-001-0765(1)	Rules about safety committees or safety meetings	152	\$11,570
3	437-001-0765(13)	Documentation of safety committee meetings	141	\$1,695
4	1926.1053(b)	Requirements for use of ladders	125	\$102,640
5	437-003-0503(2)	Certification of fall-protection training	112	\$2,200
6	1910.1200(e)	Written hazard communication program	78	\$5,610
7	1910.178(l)	Training for operators of powered industrial trucks	66	\$7,110
8	1910.305(g)	Wiring requirements for flexible cords and cables	52	\$2,875
9	1910.147(c)	Control of hazardous energy: General requirements	51	\$42,640
10	1910.28(b)	Duty to have fall protection: Protection from fall hazards	48	\$80,145
Top 10 health violations				
1	1910.1200(e)	Hazard communication: Written hazard communication program	438	\$46,440
2	1910.1200(g)	Hazard communication: Safety data sheets	111	\$7,215
3	1910.1200(h)	Hazard communication: Employee information and training	110	\$14,430
4	437-001-0765(1)	Rules about safety committees or safety meetings	103	\$4,270
5	1910.134(c)	Respiratory protection: Respiratory protection program	85	\$18,045
6	1910.1030(c)	Bloodborne pathogens: Exposure control requirements	81	\$20,280
7	1910.1200(f)	Hazard communication: Labels and other forms of warning	41	\$1,780
8	437-002-0161(5)	Medical and first aid: Emergency eyewash and shower facilities	37	\$6,345
9	1910.134(e)	Respiratory protection Requirements on the selection of respiratory protection	31	\$8,530
10	1926.62(d)	Lead: Lead exposure assessment	31	\$2,535



FSOil grows a model safety culture

By Aaron Corvin and Jeff Jackson

FSOil, a family-owned business in Woodburn, is a member of Oregon's burgeoning hemp industry. When it comes to workplace safety and health, however, it stands apart from the crowd.

This makes sense, given the unique history of the family farm. It has evolved and grown and served the community in more ways than one, including providing the annual gathering place – made beautiful by tulips of seemingly every color – known as The Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival.



FSOil, a family-owned business in Woodburn, represents another venture for the farm that's home to an annual community gathering place known as The Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival.

The family is comprised of siblings and cousins, including Barb Iverson, Ken Iverson, Nels Iverson, Paul Iverson, and Tim Shaughnessy. They got serious about making room for another indelible venture on the farm – FSOil – when they saw Ross Nels Iverson – the Iversons' father and Shaughnessy's uncle, who started the farm in 1950 – reap the health benefits of cannabidiol (CBD) oil even as he battled a grave illness.

"It's the people it helps," said Shaughnessy, one of the company's five managing owners (the other four are his cousins). "That's the passion." He recently described FSOil's operation, which includes growing hemp plants, processing biomass, and producing hemp extracts such as CBD oil. And he spoke of seeing, first-hand, the health benefits and natural relief provided to family and friends by CBD oil products. Tim Shaughnessy, one of FSOil's five managing owners, discusses the company's use of supercritical carbon dioxide extractors to strip essential components from hemp plant material.



Another part of what makes the company stand out centers on a crucial – and ongoing – choice: to make its operations as safe as possible, while achieving top industry certifications.

Underpinning the company's focus on safety is its decision to embrace an extraction system that converts carbon dioxide – an odorless, colorless gas – into a supercritical solvent that pulls valuable chemical compounds from plant material.

At standard temperature and pressure, carbon dioxide typically acts as a gas. Adjust the temperature and pressure so that it's at, or above, its critical point, and carbon dioxide can behave as a supercritical fluid. The upshot: It expands to fill its container like a gas, but with the density of a liquid. In this way, supercritical carbon dioxide becomes an essential commercial and industrial solvent because of its role in chemical extraction. This process is most commonly used for making decaffeinated coffee.

It's a process that avoids the use of highly flammable hydrocarbons, such as propane, butane, or ethanol, to do the same job of extracting the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or CBD from marijuana or hemp plants. For perspective: Hemp contains less than 0.3 percent THC and is not the same as recreational marijuana. In 2018, a federal farm bill made hemp an ordinary agricultural commodity, opening it to broad cultivation across the United States.

Before that federal decision, Oregon had already been one of the top hemp-producing states in the country. As of Nov. 7, the Oregon Department of Agriculture had issued 3,379 hemp registrations representing a total of 63,943 acres statewide.

As for extraction systems, there have been many incidents in the U.S. involving butane extraction that have failed and resulted in explosions and flash fires. Employees have been seriously injured. In Oregon, there have been no known incidents involving supercritical carbon dioxide.



The implications for on-the-job safety of choosing carbon dioxide extraction are as clear as a sunny day on a hemp farm in the Willamette Valley.

"You've inherently reduced the risk substantially of a fire hazard or severe fires and burns," said Jeff Jackson, a senior industrial hygiene consultant for Oregon OSHA.

Safety choices

To be sure, hydrocarbon extraction can be done safely. However, it poses an inherently more dangerous environment due to the severe fire risk. When hydrocarbon extraction facilities are not well designed and properly operated, the results can be disastrous.

Take, for example, the April 2018 accident that occurred at Burnt River Farms, a cannabis facility in eastern Oregon.



A sanitary clamp. A 2018 accident at a cannabis facility in eastern Oregon included the failure of such devices.

The company grows cannabis, harvests the buds, and uses butane in the extraction process as a solvent to release hash oils from the cannabis.

The accident – investigated by Oregon OSHA – involved an employee, an extraction operator, who was vaporizing solvent from a collection canister when the bottom of the canister broke out because the sanitation clamps failed.

A pressurized mixture of hash oil and liquid butane spilled into a bath of hot water, splashing the entire processing room and the employee working in the room. Quickly, the employee left the room. When the liquid butane became exposed to the open air environment, it quickly converted to a flammable gas.

Then the gaseous butane found an ignition source in the area where electric transfer pumps were located and ignited a flash fire. By way of context, all electrical components in a butane-extraction process must be intrinsically safe to eliminate possible ignition sources that could spark the explosion. This encompasses all electrical equipment within the butane extraction room, including mundane equipment such as surveillance cameras, fire detectors, and even cell

phones. Butane gas has a low ignition potential and can be ignited very easily, just like a butane pocket lighter.

The Burnt River Farms employee, soaked in butane from the splash and standing outside the room, was caught in the fireball and suffered second- and third-degree burns to his arms, hands, and face.

Oregon OSHA's investigation cited multiple safety violations on the part of Burnt River Farms, including failures related to emergency action plans and communications, personal protective equipment, and routine inspections, among other items. In the aftermath of the accident, the company corrected the violations, noting that it appreciated the "professionalism and the willingness" of Oregon OSHA "to make our facility a safer work environment."

The accident illustrates that every decision, from the type of extraction process you use to how you approach its safe operation once the system is up and running, matters.

For Shaughnessy and FSOil, the decision was clear from the outset for the primary extraction. "We made a conscious decision not to extract with hydrocarbons," he said. However, the company does use ethanol (grain

What began as biomass and was run through carbon dioxide extraction is now CBD oil pooling inside a decarboxylation vessel. This process heats and activates the CBD.





FSOil grows a model safety culture, continued

alcohol) in its post-processing, employing engineered "closed-loop" systems for solvent recovery. It also maintains extensive ventilation exhaust systems. These processes minimize employee exposure and help recover the solvent without release into the environment.

A growing company

FSOil launched in 2016 on the 1,500-acre farm in Woodburn. The operation includes contract growers whose yields are certified as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and as organic. The GAP program is a federal one in which voluntary audits verify that what's grown, packed, handled, and stored is done so as safely as possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards.

The agricultural hemp operation started small. It has transformed from 18 acres of hemp and a small carbon dioxide extraction machine in an unused barn into 600 acres of hemp, an expanding grow operation, and two separate extraction and post-processing facilities. FSOil employs about 80 people.

The company's extraction facilities boast several certifications. Those include Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) – another federal program that requires processors to proactively ensure their products are safe – and the U.S. Hemp Authority, an industry-initiated program that sets high standards and urges best practices.

Inside the rooms that house the company's extraction facilities, you can see the



process involving carbon dioxide go to work. When carbon dioxide acts as a solvent, it can dissolve other substances.FSOil's extraction process uses pressurized carbon dioxide to pull all of the essential cannabinoids, oils, and waxes out of the plant material. The end result is an amber-tinted oil.

The company's extraction operation is a stainlesssteel-and-glass mosaic of compressors, pumps, tubes, funnels, filters, mixing tanks, and evaporators. The company processes about 2,000 pounds

An employee of FSOil stands over an industrial size Buchner Funnel, used for filtering waxes from cannabidiol (CBD) after winterization.

of biomass per day. It produces 75 kilos of oil per day for use in a variety of products and brands.

It all hums along nicely, including squeaky-clean rooms where employees



FSOil's carbon dioxide extraction system includes a rotary evaporator, which enables the removal of solvent in a controlled manner.

walk up and down aisles and check equipment.

The attention to safety is evident in other ways, not just the extraction process itself. The lines pumping carbon dioxide where it needs to go are buried under the floor, eliminating potential tripping hazards. To keep noise levels down in the extraction room, the company keeps the gas-pumping operation – which is noisy – in a separate room.

Meanwhile, signs on doors deliver important messages, including: "Safety First: Eye Protection Required." Look around, and the employees walking up and down those aisles are indeed wearing safety glasses. And the company maintains a safety committee, which indicates a proactive approach to addressing potential safety and health concerns.

When Shaughnessy talks about FSOil's commitment to safety, it's clear he sees employees as extended family. When he talks about what drives the company, he exudes compassion for others. His words are backed by the history of the family farm and its commitment to strengthening its community.

"This helps people," he said. 🧲

Employers, including those in the emerging cannabis industry, don't have to go it alone in cultivating a safe and healthy workplace. For help, call <u>Oregon OSHA's</u> <u>no-cost</u>, <u>confidential consultation services</u>. Our consultants offer hazard assessments, recommendations to control and eliminate hazards, and hands-on training.

Phone: 503-378-3272 Toll-free in Oregon: 800-922-2689 Field office locations and phone numbers Email: consult.web@oregon.gov

How to safely remove snow from roofs

By Ellis Brasch

Oregonians who live east of the Cascade mountains are accustomed to snow – when it can be measured in inches rather than feet. But major snow events that leave homeowners and businesses buried in snow are a different matter.

Snow that piles up on rooftops can cause significant damage to the structure and can be a life-threatening hazard if the building collapses under the snow's weight, or the snow slides off the roof onto an unsuspecting pedestrian.

However, removing snow from roofs is also hazardous. Falls are responsible for most injuries, but workers have been injured and killed when a roof collapses while they are removing the snow. Other hazards related to snow removal include:

- Amputations and eye injuries caused by snow blowers
- Collapses or tip-overs involving aerial lifts
- Entrapment and suffocation under loose snow falling from roof
- Shock and electrocution from energized power lines and damaged extension cords
- · Frostbite or hypothermia from cold and wind
- Overexertion injuries from shoveling snow

Is snow removal a maintenance or construction activity?

Removing snow from a roof is typically considered a maintenance activity, which means Oregon OSHA's general occupational safety and health rules apply. It's important to remember that these rules require workers to be protected from falling when they are working at heights of four feet or more above a lower level. You'll find the requirement in Division 2, Subdivision D, <u>1910.28</u>, <u>Duty to have fall protection</u>.



Oregon OSHA's general workplace safety rules require workers to be protected from falling when they're working at heights of four feet or more above a lower level.

However, on construction sites where snow must be removed to begin or continue construction work, Oregon OSHA's construction rules apply and workers must be protected from falling when they are six feet or more above a lower level. You'll find the requirement in Division 3, Subdivision M, <u>437-003-1501, Fall</u> <u>protection</u>.

How to safely remove snow from roofs, continued

How to protect workers from falls

Many workers who remove snow from roofs are inexperienced and do not understand the risks of working at heights or how to protect themselves from falling. So, it's critical that employees who may be required to shovel from roofs know what to do to accomplish the work, the risks of working at heights, and how to protect themselves from falling before they get on the roof.

Considerations for a typical snow removal project include:

- What tools and equipment are necessary to remove the snow?
- Have the workers been trained to safely remove the snow?
- If a snow blower or other heavy equipment is necessary to remove snow, how will it be moved to the roof?
- Will the roof support the weight of the workers and their equipment?
- Are there skylights or vents that workers could fall through hidden by snow?
- Are there trip hazards on the roof that need to be identified or removed?
- How will people on the ground be protected from snow removed from the roof?

Reducing the risk of a fall

The best strategy for protecting workers from falls is to eliminate the fall risk by having them work from the ground. When they're feasible, roof rakes are the best option for removing snow from roof edges.

Ladders can be useful for applying anti-icing agents if it's possible to set them up so that they remain stable.

And where roof access is difficult or it is necessary to lift heavy equipment, aerial lifts can be effective. Make sure that workers who operate the aerial lifts have been properly trained, and all workers should look for overhead power lines before doing any work involving roof rakes, ladders, or aerial lifts.

Using personal fall-arrest systems

Personal fall-arrest systems are the most common type of fall protection and most workers who regularly do roofing work know how to use it. But that might not be the case for workers who do an occasional snow-removal job.

Anyone who uses a personal fall-arrest system should know:

- How to select and install a secure anchorage
- How to select and use connectors
- How to put on and use a full-body harness
- How to correctly attach and use a lanyard
- · When a deceleration device is necessary
- How to use a lifeline
- The correct procedures for using retractable devices
- How to estimate fall distances
- How to avoid swing falls
- · How to inspect and maintain the system
- What to do in a fall-arrest emergency

Using mechanized equipment

- Ensure that workers are trained and that they have read, understood, and followed the manufacturer's instructions for using the equipment.
- Do not use a snow blower or other powered equipment near the edge of a roof. Some snow blower manufacturers recommend maintaining a distance of at least 15 feet from the roof edge.
- Stay clear of the collection or discharge openings on powered snow removal equipment. If the equipment becomes clogged, shut it off, wait until all moving parts have stopped, and then use a clearing tool to remove the snow.

How to safely remove snow from roofs, continued

Understanding snow load

The combined weight of snow, workers, and their equipment can cause an unstable roof to collapse. Snow load is the weight of snow, usually expressed in pounds per square foot. Although the weight of snow on a roof depends on factors such as the water content of the snow, how much snow has melted and refrozen, and the roof slope, it is possible to estimate snow load.

One way to estimate the snow load is to cut a 1-foot by 1-foot square – the full depth of the snow – from the roof, put it in a plastic bag, and then weigh the bag. The weight is a good indication of the snow load per square foot on the roof.



The amount of weight that a roof can safely support is based on local building code requirements; the roof must have the strength to support the snow, the workers, and their equipment.

One way to reduce the stress on the roof is to remove the snow uniformly and avoid making snow piles. Workers should be alert for unexpected sounds or movement that could indicate the roof is unstable or unbalanced.

Electrical hazards

Always use extreme caution when working near power lines.

- Assume power lines, wires, and other conductors are energized, even if they appear to be insulated.
- Use snow rakes with nonconductive poles and designate a worker as a monitor to ensure that people and equipment are at least 10 feet away from a power line.
- Make sure that all electrically powered equipment is grounded and includes a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) in the circuit.

When they're feasible, roof rakes are the best option for removing snow from roof edges.

Winter weather and cold stress

Hypothermia and frostbite are the most common types of cold stress. When the body can no longer maintain its core temperature, it shivers to compensate for the lost heat. Shivering reaches a maximum when the core temperature falls to 95 degrees F. Without another heat source to warm the body, hypothermia is possible.

Frostbite occurs when layers of skin tissue freeze; trench foot is possible when feet are immersed in cold water for long periods of time – it's similar to frostbite, but generally less severe.

Cold temperatures, wind, dampness, and cold water are the key factors that increase the risk of cold stress. Wind chill refers to the rate of heat loss resulting from the combined effect of low air temperature and wind.

Planning cold weather work and dressing appropriately are the most important ways to prevent cold stress.

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Ask Oregon

Does Oregon OSHA require me to use a specific inspection form to document a forklift safety inspection?

No. Oregon OSHA's powered industrial truck rule [see 1910.178(q)(7)] says that industrial trucks must "...be examined before being placed in service, and shall not be placed in service if the examination shows any condition adversely affecting the safety of the vehicle."

Also, the examination must be done daily; if powered industrial trucks are used on a "round-the-clock basis," then they must be examined after each shift. Defects must be immediately reported and corrected, but there are no requirements to document an examination.

If you want to use an inspection form, you can find sample checklists for various types of powered industrial trucks in Oregon OSHA's Industrial truck operator training guide. It is also likely that your forklift manufacturer has an inspection form that you could use. 14

Employers cited for job safety violations

Hemp processors fined for willful violations

In a series of related enforcement actions, Oregon OSHA has fined multiple employers more than \$800,000 for willful job safety violations linked to a property in Josephine County used to house workers and to process hemp.

The violations by five employers – all located in southern Oregon – included allowing an estimated 25 workers to occupy a condemned building that could have collapsed and severely injured or killed them.

The employers connected to the reckless disregard for workplace safety and health requirements are: Eighteen New Hope LLC; Jai B Levy and Yoram Levy and Yuval Magid; Jai B Levy and Yoram Levy; Yuval Magid; and Safe & Simple LLC.

Learn more online.

Roofing contractor exposed workers to fall hazards

Oregon OSHA has fined West Coast Roofing and Painting Inc. more than \$12,000 for violating job safety rules, including exposing employees to falls that could seriously injure or kill them.



Oregon OSHA cited multiple willful violations by hemp processors, including failing to ensure the exit doors of the building they used were unhindered for use during an emergency.

This is not the first time Oregon OSHA has cited the Portland-area contractor for neglecting to follow fall protection requirements.

The latest citation stems from an inspection of a job site at a house in Portland, where employees of the company were tearing off an existing roof and preparing to install a new one. The inspection found four employees were exposed to falls of about 11 feet with no fall protection systems in place. In fact, the company has now failed to heed that requirement three times since 2018. Two of those violations – including the latest one – were repeat offenses committed by the company within a month of each other this year.

Learn more online.

Fruit farm cited for 5 safety violations

Oregon OSHA has fined Orchard View Inc., a fruit farm in The Dalles, \$37,800 for five job safety violations – four of them repeat offenses – including failing to train employees in the safe operation of tractors. The failures exposed workers to serious injury or death.

The agency opened an inspection of the company in response to a confidential complaint. During the inspection, the agency found four tractor rollovers had occurred since 2012, resulting in three operators being injured. The most recent of those injuries happened in May when a tractor operator jumped from the vehicle when it rolled over on a steep incline.

The rollover problems prompted Oregon OSHA to expand its inspection of Orchard View.



Oregon OSHA, Department of Ag to discuss pesticide issues at hemp-CBD conference

Now in its sixth year, the 2020 Cannabis Collaborative Conference in Portland (Jan. 29-30 at the Portland Expo Center) will focus on educating growers, processors, and retailers about producing and selling hemp and CBD products.

Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture are among the organizations offering educational sessions at the conference. Oregon OSHA Pesticide Coordinator Garnet Cooke, and Oregon Department of Agriculture, Lead Pesticide Investigator Mike Odenthal will present a 45-minute workshop on pesticide regulation in hemp and cannabis production.

Cooke will highlight violations resulting from the improper use of pesticides among cannabis and hemp growers that Oregon OSHA compliance officers have been citing under the agency's Pesticide Emphasis Program. The goal of the program is to reduce occupational exposures to pesticides through the requirements in Oregon OSHA's pesticide-related standards such as the Worker Protection Standard, Hazard Communication, and Respiratory Protection.

Odenthal will discuss pesticides used on cannabis and hemp, and the agency's Marijuana Compliance Assistance Program, which helps growers learn how to comply with pesticide law. The Department of Agriculture regulates the sale, use, and distribution of pesticide products in Oregon.

Learn more about the hemp-CBD conference at <u>https://connexhempevents.</u> <u>com/.</u>





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susan@c 971-6

Oregon OSHA offers free online training for roofing safety

Employers and workers in Oregon's roofing industry now have a free and convenient way to boost their ability to address fall hazards, thanks to an online video training course launched by Oregon OSHA.

The course, "Fall Protection for Roofing," is the latest in a series of online educational offerings created by the division to help address fall hazards across specific industries and different on-the-job situations.

The course, which includes insights from industry leaders, covers a full range of topics. Those topics include hazard identification, fall protection equipment and systems, safe access, and training.

The human and economic costs of failing to account for fall protection are clear. In 2017, for example, there were 5,780 accepted disabling claims in Oregon due to slips, trips, and falls. The average cost of those claims was \$23,570.

The roofing course includes the opportunity to receive a certificate of completion. It is the third of five planned online courses about fall protection. The other two that are available are "Fundamentals of Fall Protection" and "Ladder Safety."

"Fall Protection for Roofing" is available online.

Explore the "Fall Protection Suite," which encompasses the roofing course, and the fundamentals and ladder courses.

Oregon OSHA encourages the use of online training.

On Facebook, check out @oregonosha and #TipTuesday, which focuses on addressing fall hazards.

10 Courtesy of Pfeifer Roofing and OR-OSHA Public Education



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Safety video contest opens to Oregon high school students

For high school students across Oregon, now is the time to unpack their video equipment and rev up their creativity for a good cause – increasing awareness about workplace safety for young workers.

The annual "Speak up. Work safe." video contest is open for submissions. The top three entries will take home cash prizes ranging from \$300 to \$500, and students will earn a matching amount for their school.

Students must create a video no longer than 90 seconds to inspire young workers to do at least one thing differently to stay safe on the job. The video must include the theme: "Speak up. Work safe." The video must educate young workers about the importance of speaking up in the workplace. Whether they sing, dance, use humor, or go documentary-style serious, participants are encouraged to tap their imaginations while emphasizing ways to protect themselves – and their co-workers – from getting hurt on the job.

Submissions will be judged on certain criteria, including:

- An original health and safety message that appeals to teen workers and safety educators
- Overall production value (video/audio quality, acting, and editing)
- "Speak up. Work safe." theme is used effectively

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. Videos can be submitted online or mailed.

Contest winners will be unveiled at a screening event in spring 2020, and winning entries will be posted on YouTube.

Go online to get <u>more contest information</u>, including rules, tips, entry forms, workplace safety and young worker resources, and a playlist of past finalist videos.

You could be **90 seconds** away from **\$500**



2019 First place winners - "The Safety Bros" by Parkrose High School

Oregon young employee safety VICEO CONTEST Speak up. Work safe.



First prize: \$500 Second prize: \$400 Third prize: \$300 Winners' schools will receive a matching prize.

youngemployeesafety.org/contest

Deadline: February 7, 2020



Oregon OSHA hosts Spanish-language conference

Language can often be a barrier to understanding safe practices on the job. Oregon OSHA took yet another step toward breaking down that barrier with its first Spanish-language safety conference in Salem on Nov. 19.

"This event represents so much more than just workplace safety and spreading information," said Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood. "At its core, this conference is about reaching out to underrepresented groups and making sure that they have the same access to proper resources and tools as anyone else."

The conference welcomed more than 180 attendees and participants from across the West Coast.

The conference covered a variety of topics that impact the daily routines of workers. While some workshops focused on physical safety and best practices for workers, others helped attendees to better understand their rights as workers and what the law requires of their employers. All workshops were presented in Spanish.

> Attendees of Oregon OSHA's first Spanishlanguage conference were offered a variety of presentations addressing workplace safety and other topics.

The conference also provided a space where bilingual representatives from state agencies and vendors could provide information to attendees.

Supporters of the event include the Central Oregon Safety & Health Association, Oregon Columbia Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences at OHSU, SAIF Corporation, and Oregon Business & Industry.

Go online to get more information about <u>upcoming</u> Oregon OSHA conferences.





Incident Report Incident: Burn Business: Farm Worker: Farmhand

What happened?

A 30-year-old farmhand was burned over 70 percent of his body when his drip torch exploded while he was creating a fire line.

About the business

The business has 25 employees and grows wheat, corn, onion, and beans..

How did it happen?

The farm manager assigned two farmhands the task of burning weeds and grass along an onion field. One of the farmhands had a propane weed burner and the other had an old-style drip torch fueled with a mixture of 50 percent diesel and 50 percent gasoline.



The drip torch resembled an old 1.5-gallon watering can with a wick stuck in the end of the nozzle. Tipping the can shifted fuel to the nozzle and saturated the wick; when the wick was lit, the burning fuel dripped to the ground.

The farmhand using the drip torch had burned about 200 square feet when the wick fell out. With no wick to restrict the flow of fuel, the flames leapt up around him. And because the fuel can was about half full, the flames ignited the vapors, causing an explosion. The bottom of the fuel can separated during the explosion sending the burning fuel in all directions.

The other farmhand heard a boom and turned to see his co-worker engulfed in flames. He ran over and tried unsuccessfully to put out the flames with his coat, so he started to throw dirt on the worker. A passing vehicle stopped and the driver used water to help put out the flames, then called 911.

When emergency responders arrived, the farmhand was sitting up with most of his clothes off and in extreme pain. The emergency responders stabilized him in their ambulance and called for a LifeFlight helicopter.

The farmhand was flown to a nearby hospital and then transferred to another hospital with secondand third-degree burns on 70 percent of his body.



Remains of the farmhand's clothing in the middle of the burn area.

Findings

 To use the drip torch, the farm manager told employees to fill the canister with a 50/50 mixture of diesel and gasoline, tip the fuel can to soak the wick, set the grass on fire with a lighter, then touch the wick to the burning grass to light the wick. When they were done, employees were told snuff the flame out with their gloved hands.

The drip torch and the bottom of the fuel can.

Safety Notes, continued

- The drip torch had a straight spout that did not restrict the flow of fuel. Newer drip torches prevent an uncontrolled flow of fuel and the possibility of a back-burn into the fuel tank.
- When asked about fire suppression equipment (fire extinguishers, shovels, or water) being available or provided to the employees, the farm manager said none were provided. He also said the employees had no firefighting training.
- When asked if the farm had done a personal protective equipment (PPE) hazard assessment for grass and brush control with fire, the farm manager said, "We did not do an assessment for that task and the employees wear regular blue jeans, work boots, T-shirts, and sweatshirts."
- The farm did not maintain an OSHA 300 Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses or a 300A Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.
- The farm did not have an active safety committee. The farm manager said he did have informal safety talks with employees, but did not document those talks.



Violations

- 437-004-1005(2)(a): The employer did not assess the workplace to determine if hazards were present, or were likely to be present, that would make the use of personal protective equipment necessary to protect employees.
- 437-004-1470: Where workers were expected or required to fight fires, their level of training and the firefighting equipment they use was not adequate for the level of firefighting involvement expected or required.
- 437-004-1450(1): The employer did not provide fire extinguishers designed for use on potential fires in the work area.
- 437-004-0251(2)(a): The employer did not have an effective safety committee.
- 437-001-0700(14)(a): The OSHA 300 and 300A
 Summary forms were not kept on a calendar year basis.

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View across the field. The incident occurred under the first tree in the foreground.

Going the Distance

Company:

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Portland General Electric Co. – Biglow Canyon wind farm

Senior Wind Technician:

Elizabeth Kokos

Operations/facilities/workforce:

PGE's Biglow Canyon wind farm, located outside of Wasco, encompasses 217 wind turbines covering 25,000 acres. Altogether, the wind turbines can produce 450 megawatts. Each turbine's supporting tower is about 265 feet tall. Combined with wind turbine blades, each unit can reach 450 feet in height. All of the towers are under Original Equipment Manufacturer warranty and maintenance contracts. The companies Vestas and Siemens have about nine and 13 employees on site, respectively. PGE has four wind plant technicians, one administrator, one on-site supervisor, one major maintenance coordinator, one planner/ scheduler, and one plant manager.

Portland General Electric Co.'s Biglow Canyon wind farm, located outside of Wasco, encompasses 217 wind turbines covering 25,000 acres.

Pictured (from left): Elizabeth Kokos, senior wind technician for PGE's Biglow Canyon wind farm; Scott Elliot, wind asset manager for the company; and Trena VanDeHey, a field consultation manager for Oregon OSHA.



MOCITY ATHLETE | Breathe, Roll & Move

Responsibilities/hazards addressed:

Question:

The Biglow Canyon site recently completed its fiveyear journey through Oregon OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP), graduating from the program. That is no small feat.

Why did your company seek to join SHARP?

Answer:

Biglow was PGE's first wind plant, and we wanted to invite the Oregon OSHA SHARP team to our facility to help gain clarification, for both sides, on exactly how both federal OSHA's and Oregon OSHA's guidelines related to this fledgling industry. We wanted to ensure that we were following the rules and regulations as they were intended and not by our own definition or perspective of them.

The consultation team was invaluable to work with as they were able to offer us a better understanding of the codes and how they affect us. They also benefitted because they were able to see first-hand how our wind farm operates, what the hazards really are, and how we mitigate them. They delved into the policies and procedures that regulate the daily operations of the plant and reviewed exactly which trainings are provided to the technicians.

Question:

What was the most important thing you learned as you progressed through SHARP?

Answer:

We feel that having transparency into a facility's safety program is paramount. Openly inviting the Oregon OSHA SHARP team to closely examine our

safety procedures was a great learning experience. The outsider's perspective of the SHARP team was able to show us that some of our procedures were not as comprehensible as we believed them to be. They were able to provide insight and perception on our practices which, after a few small changes, made for a safer workplace for all.



The team at PGE's Biglow Canyon wind farm recently completed its five-year journey through Oregon OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP), graduating from the program.

Question:

In your line of work, how do you measure success?

Answer:

While the quick answer would be to give some number from a key performance indicator showing the number of turbines available to make power at any given time, or the number of megawatts produced for a specified period, I believe the bigger measure is when we all go home at the end of the day uninjured.

The wind industry deals with a multitude of hazards ranging from the massive components that need replacement or repair, to the large tools that we use to perform the tasks, to the heights at which this work is performed, and to the spaces in which the work is completed. The opportunities for not only injuries, but substantial injuries, are countless.

Having safe work practices and written procedures is only half of the battle. To truly be effective, those practices and procedures must be followed by every person in the plant. When you're replacing a 15,000-pound piece of equipment, 300 feet off the ground, and using a wrench that weighs 52 pounds, there is no room for error or short cuts.

Question:

What advice would you give to those looking to improve safety and health where they work or others seeking a career in on-the-job safety and health?

Answer:

Don't follow the safety procedures just because they are required. Try to realize that all of them are in place so that all of you can go home to your families at the end of the day. Many safety procedures and OSHA regulations were written because someone got hurt or worse when they thought they were being safe.

Endeavor to make safety a part of your choices in everyday life, not just at work. Many of us here at Biglow have stories of an activity we were performing while at home that went wrong, and how we were uninjured because we were implementing the same safety practices and mitigations we would have if we were at work. That's the true measure of a strong safety culture, when it follows you home and you think about it all the time.