

Health and Safety

RESOURCE

Oregon OSHA • April 2025 • Volume 87 – online

9 ▶ **Why ladders can let you down**

12 ▶ **April 28: A time to remember those we have lost**

13 ▶ **Oregon employers, workers invited to take a 'Safety Break'**

17 ▶ **GOSH award recipients exemplify leadership in safety, health**



Resource

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

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Andrew R. Stolfi, Director

Oregon OSHA
Renée Stapleton, Administrator

Resource editor **Editor**
Aaron Corvin Michael Plett

Designer
Dominic Groshong

Written content in this publication is in the public domain and may be used without permission for noncommercial, personal, or educational purposes. Source credit is requested, but not required.

Photos or other images in this publication that are explicitly identified as being created by Oregon OSHA may also be used for noncommercial, personal, or educational purposes. Source credit is requested, but not required. Any other photo or image in this publication may have been licensed by a third party and must not be used. For more information about photos or other images in this publication, contact Oregon OSHA at osha.resource@dcbs.oregon.gov.

Note: Oregon OSHA's online publications are frequently updated. If you copy and repost such content, check for updates to ensure the information is current. Better yet, link directly to the content rather than reposting.

Administrator's message

- 3 We must remember.
We must renew our call to action

Don't Miss...

- 4 Sign up for virtual workshops and mark your calendar for upcoming safety conferences

Did You Know?

- 5 Oregon OSHA offers Practicing Confined Space Rescues, a video training filmed at a wastewater treatment plant in Oregon.

Datapoints

- 6 Assessing work-related Oregon fatalities – then and now

Features

- 9 Why ladders can let you down

Ask Oregon OSHA

- 11 Is the 4:1 ratio measured from the scaffold's highest working level or from the top handrail?

Short Takes

- 12 April 28: A time to remember those we have lost
- 13 Oregon employers, workers invited to take a 'Safety Break' May 14
- 14 New and updated publications offer timely safety, health information
- 15 GOSH connects people to improve safety, health

Incident Alert

- 16 Contact with high-voltage power line

Going the Distance

- 17 GOSH award recipients exemplify leadership in safety, health

We must remember. We must renew our call to action

By Renée Stapleton

The Fallen Workers Memorial in Salem serves as a permanent – and necessary – reminder of our ongoing struggle against death in the workplace.

Located outside the Labor and Industries Building on the Capitol Mall, the memorial – donated to the State of Oregon by the Oregon AFL-CIO – is a plaque attached to a boulder. The plaque is engraved with these words: "Mourn for the dead, fight for the living."



On April 28, Workers Memorial Day, an international event held annually, we will gather next to this memorial – this necessary reminder – to grieve with families who lost loved ones in 2024 to a work-related injury or illness. We will be there for the families. We will gather for a public observance, we will look upon the families and speak to them, we will pray with them for a more just society, and we will read the names of the fallen workers aloud to ensure they are not forgotten.

But will we remember? As we move forward with our jobs, our lives – as Workers Memorial Day passes – will we take this annual observance and let it truly call us to renewed action to more fully realize our obligations under the Oregon Safe Employment Act?

I ask because, sadly and unfortunately, in the rush to get the job done, in the search for a quick profit, in the daily

thrum of distractions, it is sometimes all too easy for some employers to forget to put the safety and health of workers first.

This is all the more disturbing given that we know the challenges before us. We know how to address the hazards we confront. We know the solutions. In other words: No one should die from a fall hazard. No one should be killed while felling trees. No one should give their life in exchange for a paycheck to work on a farm in extreme heat.

And while it is true that, for decades, vigilant safety and health practitioners, labor and employer advocates, and insurers have teamed up to successfully drive down worker fatality rates in Oregon, there is room for improvement and more work to do.

So please gather with us on April 28. Please read the article on [Page 12](#) for details about the event, including the list of fallen workers.

And let us not forget. Let us remember. Let us put the words engraved on the Fallen Workers Memorial into action. Let us, in the forthright words of Mother Jones, mourn for the dead and fight like hell for the living. ●

Renée Stapleton



OSHA
Oregon OSHA
Department of
Consumer and
Business Services

Renée Stapleton
Oregon OSHA
Administrator

Don't miss.....

Education:

Workshop classes are held either in person or virtually, but not both on the same day. All registered participants will receive a confirmation email. For virtual workshops, instructions on how to join will be provided two weeks before the workshop. A minimum of five registrants is needed for each workshop.

Register and attend

Using the [secure online registration portal](#), you can find and register for a variety of workshop topics.

For more information, visit the [classroom workshops page](#).

Find more information about education resources by visiting Oregon OSHA's [education and training page](#). ●

Mark your calendar for these workplace safety and health conferences:

Northwest Safety and Health Summit by Region X VPPPA
May 13-15, 2025 • Portland

Blue Mountain Occupational Safety and Health Conference
June 2-3, 2025 • Pendleton

Central Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference
Sept. 15-16, 2025 • Bend

Southern Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference
Oct. 14-16, 2025 • Ashland

Western Pulp, Paper, and Forest Products Safety and Health Conference
Dec. 2-5, 2025 • Portland

Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit
Jan. 26-27, 2026 • Bend

Cascade Occupational Safety and Health Conference
March 3-4, 2026 • Eugene

To receive conference registration materials, exhibitor information, or sponsorship information, contact the Conference Section:
oregon.conferences@dcbs.oregon.gov | 503-947-7411 | osha.oregon.gov/conferences



Did you know?

Oregon OSHA offers Practicing Confined Space Rescues, a video training filmed at a wastewater treatment plant in Oregon.

The video – available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) – showcases the treatment plant's practice of a confined space rescue. Key topics include lockout/tagout procedures, air monitoring, and team organization. The video is also featured in Oregon OSHA's Confined Space Safety online course, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). ●



Quotable

Worker safety and health is an unequivocal right in Oregon. So I am honored today to put the spotlight on individuals, teams, and organizations who often don't get the recognition they have earned but who are our heroes of workplace safety and health because they invest their time, energy, and talent in making the right to a safe and healthy workplace a reality.

– **Steph Strickland,**
Northwest native and emcee of the 2025 GOSH
Conference awards ceremony.



PRACTICING CONFINED SPACE RESCUES



Datapoints

Assessing work-related Oregon fatalities – then and now

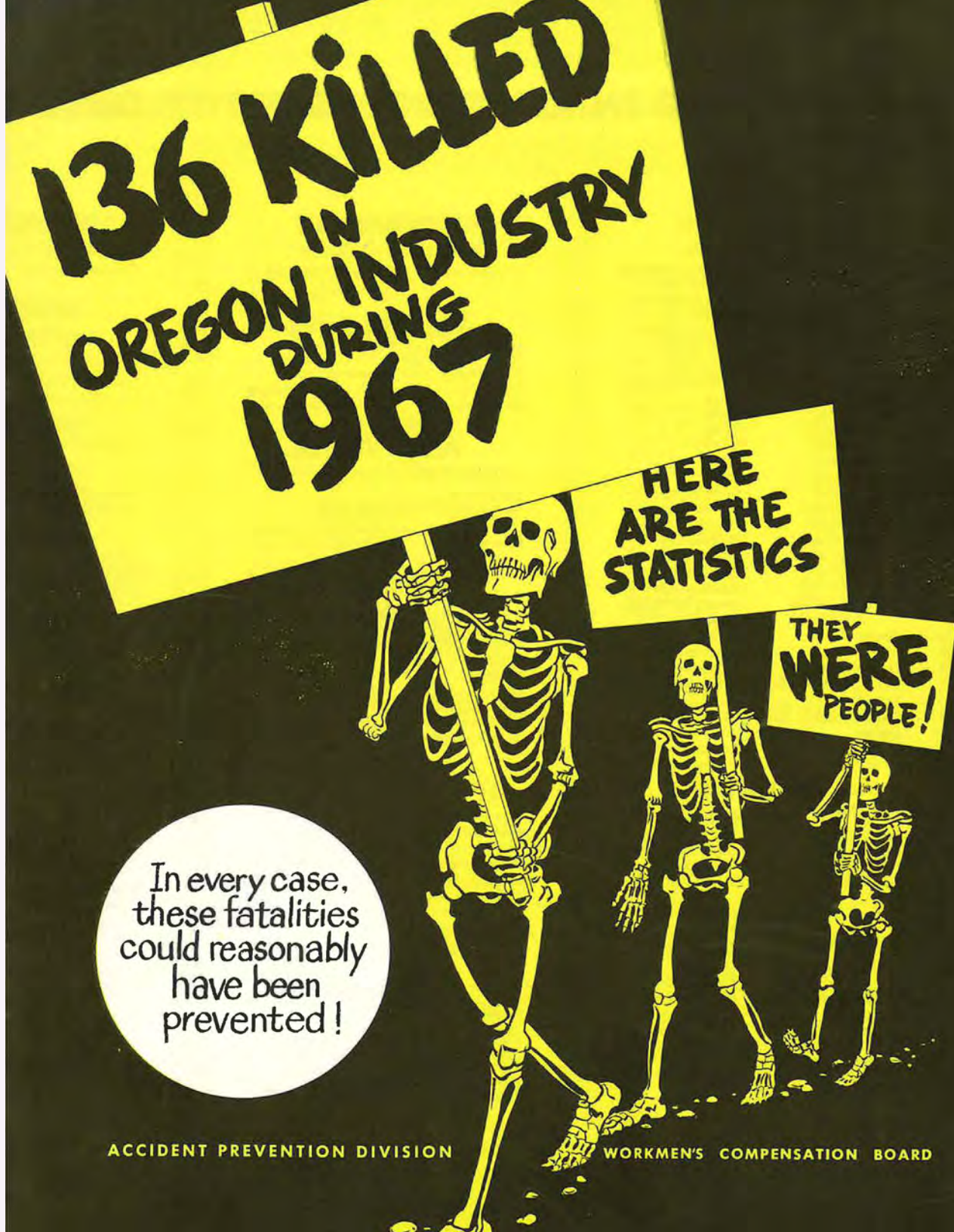
By Ellis Brasch

In 1967, Tom McCall had just become Oregon's 30th governor, logging was still a major industry in the state, and the Accident Prevention Division (APD) – which was part of the Workmen's Compensation Board – was responsible for enforcing the state's "Safety Law".

It would be another six years before McCall signed Senate Bill 44, establishing the [Oregon Safe Employment Act](#) – the landmark legislation intended to "assure as far as possible safe and healthful working conditions for every workingman and woman in Oregon." And it would be another 22 years before the name was changed to Oregon OSHA, dedicated to the mission of advancing and improving safety and health for all workers in Oregon.

In 1967, APD reported that 136 workers died on the job and that loggers accounted for about one-fifth of those fatalities (21 percent). In 2023 (the most recent year for current data) the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that [54 Oregon workers died on the job](#), and that transportation and material moving workers accounted for the largest proportion of fatalities (28 percent).

In a powerfully illustrated publication, the Accident Prevention Division reported in 1967 that 136 workers died on the job and that loggers accounted for about one-fifth of those fatalities (21 percent).



FATALS IN OREGON INDUSTRY DURING 1967 BY OCCUPATION AND SOURCES

LOGGING

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Faller Bucker	Struck by treetop
Faller Bucker	Falling Tree
Faller Bucker	Falling Tree
Faller Bucker	Falling Tree
Faller Bucker	Falling Limb
Faller Bucker	Rolling Log
Faller Bucker	Rolling Log
Faller Bucker	Rolling Root Wad
Faller Bucker	Snag
Faller Bucker	Snag
Faller Bucker	Snag
Faller Bucker	Snag
Faller Bucker	Snag
Faller Bucker	Auto Wreck
Faller Bucker	Falling Tree
Choker Setter	Falling Tree
Choker Setter	Rolling Log
Choker Setter	Sliding Log
Mechanic	Struck by log loading machine
Mechanic	Struck by falling tower
Yarder Engineer	Struck by log loading machine
Chaser	Struck by log loading machine
Tractor Operator	Upset Machine
DW Operator	Upset Machine
Tong Setter	Auto Accident
Knot Bumper	Struck by limb
Logger	Auto Accident
Logger	Log off load

LOG HAULING

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Log Truck Driver	Log off the load
Log Truck Driver	Log off the load
Log Truck Driver	Truck Wreck
Log Truck Driver	Trailer ran over

SAWMILLING

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Lumber Puller	Struck by Lumber Carrier
Truck Driver	Fell seven feet
Watchman	Struck by auto
Fireman	Suffocation—chip bin
Stacker	Timbers off conveyor
Boom Man	Drowning

PLYWOOD MILLS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Chipperman	Caught in veneer feed rolls

PULP AND PAPER

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Pipe Fitter	Heart Attack
Electrician	SO ₂ Gas Inhalation
Shift Foreman	SO ₂ Gas Inhalation

PUBLIC UTILITIES

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Telephone Technician	Exposure
Lineman	Fall from pole
Line Foreman	Electrocution

CONSTRUCTION

ROADS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Equipment Operator	Heart Attack
Oiler	Drowning
Supt.-Operator	Roller Upset
Flagman	Struck by auto
Truck Driver	Truck Wreck

BUILDINGS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Cement Mason	Fell twenty-one feet
Mechanic	Upset Crane
Truck Driver	Truck Wreck
Truck Driver	Electrocution
Laborer	Fall
Laborer	Fall
Hod Carrier	Fall
Iron Worker	Fall
Piledriveman	Fall
Oiler	Electrocution

MISCELLANEOUS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Laborer	Cavein (Trench)
Oiler	Cavein (Trench)
Laborer	Earth Slide
Laborer	Struck by pipe
Laborer	Falling Wall
Oiler	Electrocution

MINING-QUARRYING

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Crusher Operator	Heart Attack

MANUFACTURING

METAL PRODUCTS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Corporation Officer	Airplane Wreck
Foundry Laborer	Fall

FOOD PRODUCTS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Truck Driver	Truck Wreck

MAINTENANCE

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Technician	Fall from ladder
Trailer Service Man	Fall

MISCELLANEOUS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Laborer	Rolling Pole
Manager	Falling Boom Load
Truck Driver	Electrocution

DISTRIBUTING

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Insurance Rep.	Airplane Wreck
Clerk-Salesman	Auto Accident
Truck Driver	Truck Wreck
Auto Dealer	Airplane Wreck
Auto Agcy. Owner	Airplane Wreck
Insurance Agent	Airplane Wreck
General Manager	Auto Accident
Salesman	Auto Accident
Salesman	Auto Accident

FARMING

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Laborer	Run over by tractor
Laborer	Upset Tractor
Laborer	Upset Tractor
Laborer	Upset Tractor
Laborer	Upset Tractor
Laborer	Upset Tractor
Laborer	Fall from pickup
Laborer	Flying debris (Blasting)
Laborer	Under dump truck bed
Truck Driver	

GREATEST SINGLE CAUSE

AUTOMOBILES . . . 17

TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAY FREIGHT

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Truck Driver	Truck Wreck
Truck Driver	Truck Wreck
Truck Driver	Heart Attack
Truck Driver	Heart Attack
Truck Driver	Suffocation (Car fell on)
Hyster Driver	Lift Truck off Dock

HIGHWAY PASSENGER

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Cab Driver	Auto Wreck
Cab Driver	Stabbed

AIR PASSENGER

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Pilot	Airplane Wreck
Pilot	Airplane Wreck
Stewardess	Airplane Wreck
Pilot	Airplane Wreck

MAINTENANCE

PUBLIC ROADS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Truck Driver	Truck through bridge
Maintenance Man	Heart Attack
Maintenance Man	Heart Attack

BUILDINGS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Window Washer	Fall
Electrician	Electrocution

AUTOMOBILES

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Parts Man	Airplane Wreck
Mechanic	Auto Wreck
Serv. Stn. Att.	Struck by fan blade
Mechanic	Fall

MISCELLANEOUS

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Boat Repairman	Drowning
Mechanic	Struck by crawler tractor

MISCELLANEOUS FATALS

TRUCKS; AIRPLANES AND HEART ATTACKS . . . 29

OTHER INDUSTRIES

UNCLASSIFIED

OCCUPATION	CAUSE
Landscaper	Hit by auto
Firm President	Airplane Wreck
Laborer	Electrocution
Log Scaler	Heart Attack
Policeman	Auto Wreck
Corp. Officer	Auto Wreck
Banker	Auto Wreck
Equipment Oper.	Trench Cavein
Group Supervisor	Heart Attack
Maintenance Man	Heat Exhaustion
Laborer	Hit by race car
Tree Surgeon	Electrocution
Well Driller	Fall from tower
Well Driller	Struck by tower
Well Driller	Unknown
Custodian	Struck by auto
Policeman	Drowning
Machine Operator	Upset Machine
Welder	Falling Limb
Unknown	Heart Attack
Trailer Park Mgr.	Unknown

OCCUPATION

WITH MOST FATALS

TRUCK DRIVERS . . . 18

LABORERS . . . 16

FALLER BUCKERS . . . 15



Accident Prevention Division

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BOARD

FOR INDUSTRIAL TOTALS AND
MONTHLY SUMMARIES BY
INDUSTRY SEE NEXT PAGE

The difference in the number of work-related fatalities between 1967 and 2023 is striking. But the 136 Oregon fatalities that the APD reported in 1967 was a number that hadn't changed much for at least the previous two decades. In fact, there were about 130 work-related fatalities per year between the 1940s and the 1960s. Then, in 1980, counts of work-related fatalities in Oregon dropped below 100 – and they have remained below that number ever since.

Why? In 1970, U.S. President Richard M. Nixon signed into law the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act, which authorized the federal government to set and enforce safety and health standards for most of the country's workers. And in 1973, the Oregon Legislature established the Oregon Safe Employment Act, ground-breaking legislation that set new standards for protecting the state's workers. This legislation fundamentally reshaped the way we think about workplace safety and health, and what we do to protect employees now.

The limits of historical data

Although Oregon adopted a workers' compensation law in 1913, we don't know if the 136 work-related fatalities reported by the Workmen's Compensation Board in 1967 included only the "compensable claims" for which employees and their families were entitled to compensation or all work-related fatalities regardless of claim status.

The way fatalities are counted has also changed. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics made several changes that affected how it classified data on workplace fatalities, including creating the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 1992 and adding specific definitions for occupational diseases, homicides, and transportation-related fatalities.

Fortunately, there are no more reports of hundreds of Oregon workers dying on the job as they did more than five decades ago, thanks largely to the requirements established by the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Oregon Safe Employment Act. But it is important to remember that how we assess injury and illness data has changed significantly over those decades. We can use the 136 fatalities reported by the Workmen's Compensation Board in 1967 to make broad assumptions about the significance of the change; but too much time has passed for us to strictly compare them with counts of work-related fatalities today. ●

INDUSTRY FATALS by Month and Year OREGON 1967

INDUSTRY	MONTHLY TOTALS												ANNUAL TOTALS
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	
LUMBERING													
LOGGING		4	2	2	4	2	2	2	3	5	1	1	28
LOG HAULING			1			1		1		1			4
SAWMILLS	1			2	1				1	1			6
PLYWOOD MILLS				1									1
PULP & PAPER MILLS					1				1			1	3
PUBLIC UTILITIES													
TELEPHONE	1												1
GAS													0
ELECTRIC	1								1				2
CONSTRUCTION													
ROADS	1			1		2					1		5
BUILDINGS	1				2	3		1	1	1	1		10
MISCELLANEOUS				1				1	2		2		6
MINING-QUARRYING													
ALL CLASSES								1					1
MANUFACTURING													
METAL PRODUCTS	1						1						2
FOOD PRODUCTS											1		1
MAINTENANCE						1			1				2
MISCELLANEOUS				1	1					1			3
DISTRIBUTING													
SALESMEN	1	1	1		1				1			1	6
DISTRIBUTORS					2			1					3
FARMING													
ALL CLASSES	1					2	1	3		1			8
TRANSPORTATION													
HIGHWAY FREIGHT					1		1			1			3
HIGHWAY PASSENGER		1								1			2
AIR PASSENGER				3				1					4
MAINTENANCE													
PUBLIC ROADS					1		1			1			3
BUILDINGS							2						2
AUTOMOBILES					2		1		1				4
MISCELLANEOUS	1									1			2
UNCLASSIFIED													
ALL CLASSES		1	2	2	3	2	2	3	2		2	2	21
MONTHLY TOTALS	9	7	10	10	18	10	11	14	14	14	8	8	

136



Why ladders can let you down

By Ellis Brasch

Consider for a moment, the humble ladder, whose origins date back to 10,000 B.C. – 6,500 years before the invention of the wheel. Its basic design hasn't changed much, and it still has one purpose: to help people quickly access something beyond their normal reach.

We can thank John H. Balsley, a carpenter from Dayton, Ohio, for adding a hinged mechanism to a ladder in 1862, making it foldable, and for replacing its round rungs with flat steps, which made it safer to climb and descend. The precocious, 16-year-old Henry Marcus Quackenbush also deserves credit for inventing the extension ladder, which he patented on Oct. 22, 1867, allowing people to access even higher places than they could with a stepladder.

Unfortunately, the ladder's user-friendly design and deceptive simplicity masks an inherent hazard: a risk of falling. Consider this news item:

"Failure to secure a ladder resulted in the death several weeks ago of a telephone lineman. [He] was repairing a drop line, having set up an extension ladder with the middle of it resting over a fence and the top leaning against a fir limb 19 feet above the ground. The ladder slipped off the limb when the lineman apparently reached too far out to connect the wires. The bottom of the ladder also slipped [because] it had not been secured. The lineman fell to the ground, dying a day later of a broken neck."

Now, consider the following quote from an emergency medical responder who tended to a worker critically injured after falling from a ladder:

"Usually, you won't get hurt that badly falling off a ladder ... he must have landed wrong."

The first item appeared in the September issue of Safer Oregon, a newsletter published by the State Industrial Accident Commission in 1945. The emergency responder was quoted from an article published in The Oregonian newspaper in January 2012. Sixty-seven years separated these events, but the reasons why people fall from ladders haven't changed – nor have the assumptions people have about the risks of falling from a ladder.

Even in 2025, some workers may still believe they won't fall from a ladder and get hurt "that badly" if they do. And the same belief may be held by some employers, who are nevertheless obligated to protect their workers under the Oregon Safe Employment Act. In fact, more workers are injured in falls from ladders than from any other elevated surface – including roofs, scaffolds, balconies, even stairs.

Oregon OSHA offers employers and workers many free workplace safety and health resources, including [consultants](#), [technical specialists](#), and public education and training on [ladder safety](#).

How do we prevent falls from ladders?

The best way to prevent falls is to replace ladders with safer working platforms and access methods – if it's feasible. That was the message in the "Ladders Last" initiative, which aimed at replacing ladders on construction sites with alternatives such as scaffolds and elevated platforms when possible. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) – in partnership with the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) – launched the initiative in 2020 as part of its SAFER (Safe Actions for Employee Returns) campaign.



Of course, it's not always feasible to use a ladder last. When you must use a ladder, always follow these four steps to reduce your risk of falling:

1. Choose the right ladder type for the job.
 - Make sure the ladder is long enough so that you can work without overreaching. The highest safe standing level on an extension ladder is four rungs down from the top. The highest safe standing level on a stepladder is two steps down from the top.
 - Use the appropriate ladder material and the correct duty rating. Aluminum and fiberglass are the most common materials; each material has characteristics that make it safer for certain uses. Ladders are typically rated based on duty ratings: light duty, medium duty, heavy duty, and extra heavy duty.
 - Do not use ladders beyond the manufacturer's rated capacity.
 - Use ladders only for the purpose for which they were designed.
2. Inspect the ladder before you use it.
 - Look for damaged or broken parts before you use the ladder.
 - Do not use the ladder until all damaged or broken parts are repaired.
3. Set up the ladder properly.
 - Get help setting up a ladder that is too bulky to handle by yourself.

- Use cones or other warning barriers in areas where the ladder could be displaced or knocked over.
 - Use fiberglass ladders if you work near electricity.
 - Position the ladder so that you do not have to lean beyond the side rails to work.
 - Set up an extension ladder at an angle of about 75 degrees.
 - When you use an extension ladder to reach to an upper landing, make sure the side rails extend at least 3 feet above the landing.
 - Fully open a stepladder and firmly lock both spreaders before you climb.
 - Make sure that the ladder's feet are on firm, level ground and that the ladder is stable. Tie off the base and the top of the ladder if movement is possible.
4. Work safely on the ladder.
 - Wear shoes with nonslip soles.
 - Climb facing the ladder and stay within the side rails. Take one step at a time and maintain three points of contact.
 - Handle materials carefully and avoid carrying loads that interfere with your balance. ●

Ask OSHA

Oregon
OSHA

Subparagraph 1926.451(c)(1) of Oregon OSHA's **general requirements for scaffolding** says that supported scaffolds with a height-to-base width (including outriggers, if used) ratio of more than 4:1 must be restrained from tipping by guying, tying, bracing, or by equivalent means. Is the 4:1 ratio measured from the scaffold's highest working level or from the top handrail?

Oregon OSHA uses the scaffold's total height (including the top handrail) and its smallest base dimension (including outriggers) to calculate height-to-base-width ratio. ●



Short take

April 28: A time to remember those we have lost

By Aaron Corvin

April 28 is not just another day. It is Workers Memorial Day, the date when people all over the world pause to recognize, remember, and honor those who died of work-related injuries and illnesses.

Oregon OSHA and Oregon AFL-CIO invite the public to attend the Workers Memorial Day observance in Salem. The annual event will be held at 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 28, at the Fallen Worker Memorial, outside the Labor and Industries Building at 350 Winter St. NE in Salem, on the Capitol Mall.

The service will feature remarks from elected officials, union leaders, and safety and health advocates. It will include a reading of the names of Oregon workers who died on the job in 2024.

Through a partnership of government, labor, and business working together to bolster workplace safety and health, Oregon's fatality and injury and illness rates have steadily declined for decades.

Resources are available to workers and employers to advance on-the-job safety and health in Oregon, including:

Oregon OSHA

- [Rights and responsibilities](#)
- [Protect against retaliation](#)
- [Keeping employees safe](#)
- [Education and training](#)

DCBS Multicultural Communications Program

- Providing [outreach to communities](#) with limited English proficiency

Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers

- [Independent advocate for Oregon workers](#), including guidance on workers' rights and responsibilities in workers' compensation and workplace safety and health

Fatalities

Name	Occupation
Long, Nicholas	Logging-choker setter
Fetch, Michael	Logging-equipment operator
Breyman, David	Truck driver
Manuel, Joshua	Building-exterior cleaner
Byrd, Robert	Heavy-equipment mechanic
Cooper, Curtis	Truck driver
Alatorre Gutierrez, Marcos	Logging-choker setter
Womelsdorf, Curtis	Dump-truck driver
Rawe, Larry	Pest-control worker
Deschenes, Samantha	Ironworker
Kelvin, Joshua	Rideshare driver
Manor, Gene	Taxi driver
Patterson, David	Maintenance worker
Zapata Zea, Jose	Program director
Ragan, Mark	Firefighter
Foley, Daniel	Firefighter
Maxwell, James	Pilot

Name	Occupation
Rowell, Adelaide	Summer-camp staff
Lorenzo Gonzalez, Eusebio	Painter
Resendiz Vasquez, Jose	Roofer
Hart, Shane	Landscaping worker
Jensen, Kurt	Truck-service worker
Thompson, Joshua	Conservation-program manager
Marquez Alonso, Vicente	Landscaper
Alinur, Abdiwasa	Truck driver
Bevins, Franklin	Truck driver
Bevins, Ginger	Truck driver
Hemstreet, Jack	Pipe layer
Mulberry, Walter	Security guard
Whitford, Jacqueline	Flight instructor
Davenport, John	Environmental engineer
Welch, Brandon	Police officer
Bracamontes Aparicio, Izaid	Arborist
Tacza Reyes, Yonatan	Sheep herder
Stehnike, Uwe	Dump-truck driver
Brant, Colton	Equipment mechanic
Nichols, Jon	Hunting guide
Davis, Anthony	Construction flagger
Guarino, Michael	Heavy-equipment operator
Campbell, Brian	Truck driver
Sargsyan, Sargis	Truck driver
Knowles, Christopher	Pilot-vehicle driver
AnDyke, Ralph	Truck driver
Franco Ramos, Blanca	Administrative professional
Valencourt, James	Maintenance worker
Rohde, Richard	Logging hook tender

Short take

Oregon employers, workers invited to take a 'Safety Break' May 14

By Aaron Corvin

Employers and workers across the state are invited to take part in Safety Break for Oregon, coordinated by Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (Oregon OSHA), a division of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. The annual event – now in its 22nd year – offers an opportunity to employers, supervisors, and workers in a variety of industries across Oregon to celebrate their safety and health achievements, and to examine and discuss their efforts to protect people from harm while on the job.

Will you take the Wednesday, May 14, stand-down as a time to refresh your knowledge and training? Will you conduct an assessment of where safety and health could be improved at your workplace? Or will you celebrate your successes, including showing appreciation for safety committee members and emerging safety leaders?

Perhaps your answer is “yes” to all of the above. How you honor Safety Break is up to you. [Sign up now for Safety Break](#). You could win a [\\$100 prize](#).

Oregon OSHA encourages employers and workers to share their Safety Break activities on social media; tag Oregon OSHA on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) with #SafetyBreak.

As you celebrate Safety Break for Oregon, Oregon OSHA encourages you to use the division's free resources. If you want free and confidential help reviewing and improving your safety and health program, [contact our consultation services](#). If you have questions about how to apply Oregon OSHA rules to your workplace, [contact our technical specialists for free](#). Moreover, Oregon OSHA offers many [free education and training resources](#) that you may want to use as part of your Safety Break for Oregon activity.

Get Safety Break ideas, logos, sample awards, and other free resources by visiting the [Safety Break for Oregon website](#). ●



Need ideas?
We've got you covered.



Short take

New and updated publications offer timely safety, health information

By Angie Marsh

To help navigate workplace safety and health, several new and updated publications have been produced recently containing information and guidance on best practices and compliance requirements. Important rule changes going into effect are referenced as well. These publications cover a range of topics, including employer-provided housing, the Worker Protection Standard, and construction inspections. Employers and employees alike can benefit from using these resources.

New Fact Sheet: [Sleeping Areas for Employer-Provided Housing](#) and in [Spanish](#)

Explains the deadlines and requirements for sleeping and storage areas of employer-provided labor housing found in the rules adopted in January 2025, with effective dates that began in March and continue in phases through January 2028.

New Fact Sheet: [Cooking Facilities in Employer-Provided Housing](#) coming soon in Spanish

Explains the deadlines and requirements for cooking areas – including buildings, utilities, appliances, and equipment – of employer-provided labor housing found in the rules adopted in 2025, with effective dates that began in March and continue in phases through January 2028.

New QR Code Card – bilingual: [Employer-Provided Housing](#)

A pocket-sized card with QR codes pointing to rule updates, retaliation resources.

Updated Program Directive: [Construction: Focused Inspections](#)

Establishes Oregon OSHA's policy for conducting focused construction inspections of employers that have been recognized by trade associations within the construction industry for their workplace safety and health programs. These focused inspections concentrate on: fall hazards, electrical hazards, struck-by hazards, and caught-in/between hazards.

Updated Hazard Alert: [Logging: Crowding the Rigging](#)

Provides an overview of what to pay close attention to when doing cable yarding work—particularly when giving the “go-ahead” signal after the movement of lines, rigging, and chokers has stopped.

Updated Information Sheet: [Application Exclusion Zone: Worker Protection Standard](#) and in [Spanish](#)

This outlines when respirators are required and how to lawfully evacuate areas when pesticides are being applied. Specifically, this explains the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) with Oregon requirements under the national Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

Updated Program Directive: [Local Emphasis Program \(LEP\) on Cannabis Processing](#)

Offers further direction regarding procedures for inspecting workplaces that process cannabis. Includes sample citations that cover flammable liquids and electrical violations.

To view all 548 of our publications – including a searchable database – visit osha.oregon.gov/pubs/Pages/index.aspx

Questions about Oregon OSHA publications? Email our Resource Center at osha.resource@dcbs.oregon.gov ●

Short take

GOSH connects people to improve safety, health

By Aaron Corvin

The Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) Conference wrapped up as a big success, garnering 1,322 attendees, providing 270 hours of training delivered by more than 195 speakers, offering networking opportunities, and presenting 150 exhibit booths with the latest products and services.

The 38th biennial 2025 GOSH Conference, held March 3-6, delivered a comprehensive set of presentations on best practices, processes, and policies for improving workplace safety and health. Held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, the conference covered everything from fall protection, industrial hygiene, and mental health in the workplace to industrial hygiene, ergonomics, and communication and training.

The conference featured a perennial favorite: the Columbia Forklift Challenge, promoting forklift safety and putting drivers to the test. Learn about the [competition winners](#).

And leaders in on-the-job safety and health were honored for their extraordinary contributions to workplace safety and health during the conference's awards ceremony. Learn about the [award recipients](#).

The conference is a collaborative effort by the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals, Oregon OSHA, and labor and businesses in Oregon and southwest Washington. ●





Incident Alert!

Company Siding contractor
 Hazard..... Contact with high-voltage power line
 Employee Gutter installer
 Incident date March 18, 2020, at 1:50 p.m.

Oregon OSHA fined a siding contractor \$8,000 for failing to protect a 28-year-old gutter installer who was electrocuted when the 30-foot-long aluminum gutter he was carrying touched a 7,200-volt power line.

What happened?

The employee and his co-worker (the lead gutter installer) were installing aluminum gutters on a new three-story residential building. It was their first day at the site. The lead worker had climbed a 40-foot aluminum extension ladder and secured it to the gable edge of the building to install the gutters along the edge of the roof.

The employee began carrying 30-foot sections of the aluminum gutter up the ladder to the lead worker, who installed them along the edge of the roof. He had carried four gutter sections to the roof, but the fifth time the end of the gutter touched an energized 7,200-volt power line that was less than 10 feet from the ladder. Electricity flowed through the employee's body and the aluminum ladder, electrocuting him instantly. A woman who worked at a nearby day care center was walking to her car, heard the employee fall, and called 911 to report the incident.

Findings

1. The employee was working within a 10-foot restricted space surrounding a high-voltage power line, but the company's owner had not notified the electrical service provider about the work. Oregon OSHA requires that the service provider be notified at least two business days before the beginning of the work; the notification must include the proposed start date, the work location, and a description of the work. Additionally, the company's owner did not post signs warning the two employees about the high voltage line. The owner said he did not know about the requirements.
2. The extension ladder had aluminum side rails and was clearly marked with a label that said, "Danger," "Watch for wires," and "This product conducts electricity." The owner also told the two employees to, "Look out for electrical lines" and the company's "Employee Safety Guidelines" stated: "No metal ladders around electrical hazards."
3. Oregon OSHA requires that extension ladders extend at least 3 feet above a roof – but the employees had set up the ladder so that only two rungs (about 28 inches)

extended above the roof. The ladder also had a label on its side rail that said, "EXTEND LADDER THREE FEET ABOVE ROOF FOR ACCESS."

4. Oregon OSHA rules require that a competent person train employees to recognize ladder hazards and that employees understand the procedures they must follow to minimize those hazards. But the employees had not been trained and did not recognize the hazards that caused the incident. ●



The employee was carrying a 30-foot long aluminum gutter to the roof when it touched a 7,200-volt power line less than 10 feet away.

GOSH award recipients exemplify leadership in safety, health

By Aaron Corvin

Demonstrating their commitment to going the distance for workplace safety and health, leaders in this field were honored with Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) awards at the March 3-6, 2025, GOSH Conference.

They received their awards during a Wednesday, March 5, ceremony at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. A panel of industry professionals judged the GOSH awards, which honor organizations and individuals who make extraordinary contributions to the field of workplace safety and health.

The recipients this year are as follows:



Heather Ashwill

Heather Ashwill, safety and risk manager for the city of Central Point, who received the Rising Safety Star Award, recognizing a safety and health professional who, early in their career, is blazing a path in the profession.

Under Ashwill's leadership, for the fiscal year 2023-2024, all of the city's employees completed their annual safety trainings one month earlier than the deadline. She developed an annual safety training program that uses a variety of tools, including on-line and in-person training. She created a

user-friendly near-miss report form for employees to report near misses so those incidents can be corrected to help prevent accidents and injuries. And she was instrumental in securing funding for Sidewinder lights that can be attached to police officers' uniforms so they can identify potential safety hazards while on the job.

When Ashwill was asked what she's learned about safety and health, she said, "If you want to see meaningful change and buy-in for your safety initiatives, make sure you are involving employees in the process and leaving plenty of room for their valuable input."



Timothy Desper

Timothy Desper, director of Burnside Services for Portland Rescue Mission, received the Business Leader Award, recognizing a business leader whose job is not safety and health but who demonstrates commitment to the field.

Desper has served the Portland Rescue Mission since February 2007. He leads the nonprofit organization's Burnside Shelter, overseeing operations and supervising 21 staff members.

His outstanding track record includes leading the design and implementation of a new drug

overdose alert system; establishing an emergency cooling/warming center at the Burnside Shelter to prevent weather-related injuries; and creating and designing the community card system, bringing a culture of safety and community to services within the meal and shelter environment.

In 2023, Desper received the Homeless Alcohol and Drug Treatment Intervention Network Annual Award.

A recent KGW news story highlighted his wintertime work to provide shelter and services to people in Portland who have no housing. He said of the operation he runs: "When you can't get to the library, when you can't get to the mall, when you can't get to these open environments during the day, when our city kind of gets quiet, that's when we step up."



Sherwin-Williams Purdy

Sherwin-Williams Purdy, manufacturer of paintbrushes and roller covers, received two GOSH awards: Safety Committee/Team and Workplace Safety Program. The Safety Committee/Team award recognizes the work of safety committees or teams that made substantial efforts in preventing workplace injury and illness. The Workplace Safety Program award recognizes workplace activities or projects that resulted in an outstanding contribution to workplace safety and health.

The company has been, since 2008, a Star site as part of [Oregon OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program \(VPP\)](#). That status exemplifies the facility's ongoing commitment to go above and beyond in keeping its workers safe and healthy.

Demonstrating its commitment to employee engagement, the Purdy site, in 2024, developed an innovative method for measuring machine guarding. The method – a prosthetic hand – is used to show why machine guarding matters, the importance of following safety procedures, and what can happen if an employee's hand is caught in a machine. The facility's Hazard Committee was critical in developing this tool.

Meanwhile, the Ergonomic Committee led a revamp of the facility's stretch-and-flex program, including videos and posters. This effort included robust engagement of employees and commitment by managers.

The company places a high value on teamwork, with members of the VPP, Ergonomic, Hazard, and Central Safety committees all working together to reinforce safety and health efforts with their co-workers.

The fact that the company took home a second award speaks to its deep commitment to the safety and health of its employees. At its heart, the facility in Purdy isn't just about making paintbrushes and roller covers; it's about bringing people together, caring about each other, and building up safety and health protections.

Through their commitment to VPP, employees and managers collaborate to implement hazard prevention and control measures, and to conduct safety training that enhances everyone's understanding of how to perform work activities safely.

Managers also show up for their employees and listen to them so they can better understand the challenges they face. Managers change their work schedules to be present during all work shifts; serve as champions of the site's safety committees; conduct safety walks on the production floor to understand how to make work safer; and they support all elements of a culture that puts safety and health first.

The team was asked why they put the safety and health of employees first. Here is what they said: "We believe that when people feel supported and cared for, they can bring their best selves to work, creating a positive and productive environment for everyone."



CRMG – Commercial and Residential Management Group

CRMG – Commercial and Residential Management Group, a property management company serving the Pacific Northwest, received a Safety Committee/Team Award.

Over the past five years, CRRMG has increased efforts to ensure safety committee representation from all areas of the company, including all on-site positions with limited corporate representation. Safety committee members play a crucial role in developing the annual safety topic calendar and the quarterly all-company virtual training topics.

Moreover, the committee was directly involved in the company's development of puncture-resistant gloves that allowed employees to handle sharps safely.

The committee also helped collaborate with the city of Portland's Safe Blocks Program to organize a companywide webinar on personal safety.

When the CRRMG team was asked about the most important thing they have learned about safety and health, they said, "No matter how big or small the change is, it will make a difference in the workplace."



Leviat North America – Canby

Leviat North America – Canby, a commercial concrete construction company supplying materials, components, and services supporting the installation of concrete structures, received a Safety Committee/Team Award.

The company's facility in Canby is its main plastic injection molding operation. The team takes a clear-eyed approach to safety and health. They go beyond regulatory requirements by focusing on three key areas: enhancement of lockout/tagout controls, reducing interactions between forklifts and pedestrians, and improving machine guarding.

The company focuses on continuously building a strong safety culture, including engaging with

team members, engineering out risks, and redesigning workflows.

Employees lead the safety committee, with strong management support. Each employee attends pre-shift huddles that empower them to ask questions and provide feedback on potential safety and health concerns. Managers conduct multiple visits to the facility each year. These visits include safety walks with employees, and discussions and plans to address the next safety project.

When asked for their best advice for reducing workplace safety and health risks, the team in Canby said, "Take the time to listen to the concerns employees have about processes and risks, and, with these concerns, take them seriously."



Joseph Henrich

Joseph Henrich, health, safety, and environmental manager for LAIKA – an award-winning stop motion animation studio – received the Safety and Health Professional Award. The award recognizes a person whose primary job responsibilities are safety and health, and who goes above and beyond in their daily work.

Henrich connects with employees and supports them as the team at LAIKA places a high value on safety and health. His focus on building relationships with the company's

sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion and production teams promotes a culture of safety at the studio.

He led the implementation of the "Safety Committee Tiny Trophy of Excellence," with employees nominating and recognizing team members for demonstrating safe work practices. The safety committee votes on the monthly award.

Joseph also initiated a studio-wide ergonomic assessment to build out an ergonomic injury prevention program to address employee needs and help prevent injuries while on the job.

He strives to move safety and health forward, making them key elements of the company's culture. As he put it, "What gets your organization to that next level is the value, trust, and connection to safety that you forge with your workforce. This moves safety from something that employees just have to do to something they want to be a part of" ●



GOSH 2025



Read their full stories

Learn more about the award recipients and their accomplishments on the GOSH website:
oregongosh.com/honor/award-recipients/.



The GOSH Conference is a joint effort of the American Society of Safety Professionals Columbia-Willamette Chapter, Oregon OSHA – a division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services – and labor and businesses in Oregon and southwest Washington.