

Health and Safety

RESOURCE

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9 ▶ **The cruelest month for heat and wildfire is upon us**

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Resource

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

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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:

Central Oregon Safety & Health Conference
Sept. 16-17, 2024 • Bend

Southern Oregon Safety & Health Conference
Oct. 15-17, 2024 • Ashland

Western Pulp, Paper, & Forest Products Safety & Health Conference
Dec. 3-6, 2024 • Portland

Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit
Jan. 27-28, 2025 • Bend

Oregon GOSH Conference
March 3-6, 2025 • Portland

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

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

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





Central Oregon OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH Conference



**RIVERHOUSE ON
THE DESCHUTES**
BEND, OR



SEPT. 16-17, 2024

Registration opens mid-July



SOUTHERN OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE



EST

OSHA

1991



ASHLAND HILLS HOTEL
ASHLAND, OR



OCT. 15-17, 2024

Registration opens in August



OREGON GOVERNOR'S OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE

HONOR

Award nominations

are now being accepted in categories for organizations and individuals who make extraordinary contributions to workplace safety and health.

(deadline: Oct. 25, 2024)

EXHIBIT

Do you provide safety and health products or services?

Save the date to exhibit at the largest safety and health conference in the Pacific Northwest!

- Connect with 1,500+ safety and health leaders
- Dedicated exhibit time with breaks in exhibit hall

ATTEND



OREGON CONVENTION CENTER
PORTLAND, OR



MARCH 3-6, 2025

To learn more, visit oregongosh.com

Did you know?

[Tools of the Trade](#) is a special Oregon OSHA website just for new employers and small business owners. Learn what you need to know about Oregon OSHA and how to keep your employees safe. Topics include: how to manage workplace safety; how to identify hazards; how to report and record injuries; what safety and health posters you need to display; why employee training is important; and how to get more help at no charge. ●



Quotable

Employers must provide fall protection to employees who are working at heights. Providing such protective systems is not an option. It is an essential requirement for keeping workers safe while getting the job done. To repeatedly fail to address the safety of workers first serves only one purpose: to further increase the risk of injury or even death.

– **Renée Stapleton,**
administrator for Oregon OSHA



Datapoints

Workers exposed to environmental conditions – highlights from the 2023 BLS Occupational Requirements Survey

By Ellis Brasch

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Requirements Survey is the result of a five-year effort to collect a massive amount of data about the physical requirements of jobs at 56,000 businesses across the U.S. The 2023 data is used by the Social Security Administration to help officials make decisions regarding disability programs; the data is also freely available to the public. The 2024 survey data will be available in November.

To collect the data, BLS economists fanned out across the country and visited each of those 56,000 businesses to determine the physical requirements for selected occupations at each business – an effort that resulted in 148,000 observations for about 480 job titles. The physical requirements included education, training, and experience; cognitive and mental requirements; physical demands; and environmental conditions. The BLS published a summary of the 2023 data in February.

By now, you may be asking, “What does all this have to do with workplace safety and health?” Let’s take a closer look at one particular category in the survey to find out: The percentage of workers exposed to environmental conditions, which include:

Extreme cold

Exposure to non-weather-related temperatures that are:

- 40 degrees or colder if the exposure is two-thirds or more of the workday
- 32 degrees or colder if the exposure is for less than two-thirds of the workday

Percent of workers exposed to extreme cold 5.5

Percent of workers exposed to extreme cold, seldom 3.4

Percent of workers exposed to extreme cold, occasionally 1.6

Percent of workers exposed to extreme cold, frequently <0.5

Percent of workers exposed to extreme cold, constantly <0.5

Extreme heat

Exposure to non-weather-related temperatures that exceed:

- 85 degrees in a humid atmosphere
- 90 degrees in a dry atmosphere

Percent of workers exposed to extreme heat 4.4

Hazardous contaminants

Exposure to a substance that negatively affects the respiratory system, eyes, skin, or other living tissue through inhalation, ingestion, or contact.

Percent of workers exposed to hazardous contaminants 6.9

Percent of workers exposed to hazardous contaminants, fully mitigated 2.2

Percent of workers utilizing personal protective equipment for hazardous contaminants 6.0

Percent of workers not utilizing personal protective equipment for hazardous contaminants 1.0

Heavy vibrations

Exposure to a shaking object or surface that causes a strain on the body or extremities.

Percent of workers exposed to heavy vibrations	2.1
--	-----

Heights

Exposure to possible bodily injury from falling. Heights are present when either a worker's center of gravity is at least 5 feet off the ground or workers are at ground level with the risk of falling several feet below ground.

Percent of workers exposed to heights	2.1
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Percent of workers exposed to heights, fully mitigated	<0.5
--	------

Percent of workers utilizing personal protective equipment for heights	3.5
--	-----

Percent of workers not utilizing personal protective equipment for heights	5.6
--	-----

Humidity

Non-weather related exposure to conditions where the air contains a high amount of water or water vapor and the atmosphere is oppressive.

Percent of workers, exposed to humidity	1.0
---	-----

Noise intensity level

The noise intensity level to which the worker is exposed on the job:

Percent of workers exposed to quiet noise	13.5
---	------

Percent of workers exposed to moderate noise	80.2
--	------

Percent of workers exposed to loud noise	6.1
--	-----

Percent of workers exposed to very loud noise	<0.5
---	------

Percent of workers utilizing personal protective equipment for noise	10.3
--	------

Percent of workers not utilizing personal protective equipment for noise	89.7
--	------

Outdoors

Work outdoors with workers unprotected and exposed to the elements (not including commutes to or from work)

Percent of workers exposed to outdoors	33.0
--	------

Percent of workers exposed to outdoors, seldom	10.2
--	------

Percent of workers exposed to outdoors, occasionally	15.1
--	------

Percent of workers exposed to outdoors, frequently	3.7
--	-----

Percent of workers exposed to outdoors, constantly	4.1
--	-----



Proximity to moving mechanical parts

Operation of, or proximity to, moving materials, mechanical parts, settings, or any moving objects (most commonly moving machinery or equipment) that could cause bodily harm.

Percent of workers in proximity to moving mechanical parts	10.1
Percent of workers in proximity to moving mechanical parts, fully mitigated	1.4
Percent of workers utilizing personal protective equipment for proximity to moving mechanical parts	7.0
Percent of workers not utilizing personal protective equipment for proximity to moving mechanical parts	3.1

Wetness

Any non-weather related contact with water or other liquids.

Percent of workers exposed to wetness	33.2
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The takeaway: exposure to extreme cold, loud noise, humidity, wetness, outdoors – and PPE use

Fortunately, only a very small percentage of workers were constantly exposed to extreme cold, very loud noise, or humidity not related to weather – all rather uncomfortable conditions.

On the other hand, 33 percent of workers had jobs outdoors that left them unprotected and exposed to the elements, but not constantly; 4.1 percent of workers, however, were constantly unprotected and exposed. Non-weather-related wetness – exposure to water or other liquids – was also a concern for nearly one-third of the workers.

Were the workers using their personal protective equipment (PPE)? Only 1 percent of workers were not using PPE for protection from hazardous contaminants, compared to 6 percent who were using PPE. Those numbers are more encouraging than the 5.6 percent of workers who were not using PPE for heights; and less than 0.5 percent of workers were protected from exposure to heights by barriers that fully mitigated the risk of a fall, such as guardrails. Being in proximity to moving mechanical parts without protection is another risky endeavor, and that was the case for 3.1 percent of workers in the survey; fortunately, 7.0 percent of workers were using PPE and presumably they were safer for their efforts.





The cruelest month for heat and wildfire is upon us

By Ellis Brasch

T.S. Eliot suggested that April was the “cruellest month” in his 1921 poem, “The Waste Land” – but in Oregon and much of the rest of the country, July also offers a significant dose of unpleasantness thanks to seasonal increases in outdoor temperatures and heightened risk of wildfire.

On average, July has been [the hottest month of the year](#) for the contiguous United States since the start of the U.S. historical record in 1895. (However, a late June “heat dome” in 2021 resulted in the deaths of dozens of people in Portland and other parts of Multnomah County.) The [wildfire season typically starts in late July](#) in Oregon and continues into early September. But now, wildfires are starting earlier in the month and lasting until the final days of autumn. And the smoke from those wildfires is causing increases in [Air Quality Index](#) (AQI) values that are frequently unhealthy for sensitive groups – and sometimes reach hazardous levels for anyone who is outdoors.

In 2022, Oregon OSHA adopted rules to protect workers from the increasing risks of heat-related illnesses and hazardous levels of wildfire smoke. Although these rules have been on the books for two years, some employers may still not know what the rules require or if their businesses are affected. Here is what you need to know.

Heat-illness prevention – what rules apply?

- OAR [437-002-0156](#) and [Appendix A](#)
- OAR [437-004-1131](#) and [Appendix A](#)

These rules apply when an employee performs work – indoors or outdoors – when the [heat index](#) equals or exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit; more requirements apply when the heat index exceeds 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The rules’ requirements are identical and apply to any workplace where extreme heat caused by weather can expose workers to heat-related illnesses – medical conditions resulting from the body’s inability to cope with a particular

heat load. OAR 437-004-1131 applies to agricultural workplaces and OAR 437-002-0156 applies to all other workplaces. The rules do not apply to buildings and structures that have mechanical ventilation that keeps the indoor heat index less than 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

What employers are exempt from these requirements?

There are full and partial exemptions:

- Full exemptions for:
 - Employers that have incidental heat exposures
 - Emergency operations
 - Buildings and structures that have a mechanical ventilation system that keeps the heat index below 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Partial exemptions for:
 - Employers whose employees perform either “rest” or “light” workloads, associated support activities for wildland firefighters
 - Employees who work from home

OAR 437-004-1120(25) Heat Illness Prevention in Labor Housing

This is a specific requirement in OAR [437-004-1120](#), Agricultural Labor Housing and Related Facilities, intended to ensure that workers living in employer-provided labor housing can safely recover after working long hours in outdoor heat.

- Cooling areas: When it is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or more outside, and bedrooms cannot maintain a temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit or less (using air conditioners or other reliable means), then employers must provide at least one cooling area for occupants to cool off.
- Minimizing heat in housing units: If rooms where people sleep are not able to maintain an indoor temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit or less with air conditioners, evaporative coolers, air purifiers with coolers, or other reliable means, then employers must protect windows from direct sunlight in a way that minimizes radiant heat and make fans available at no cost for occupants who want to use them.
- Temperature awareness: Employers must provide a thermometer that displays the temperature in both Fahrenheit and Celsius in each individual housing unit.
- Employee and occupant information: Employees must receive the training required by 437-004-1131(5), Heat Illness prevention. Employers must also display the “Heat Risks in Housing” poster (Spanish) provided by Oregon OSHA in one or more locations that housing occupants will see.
- Access to emergency services: Employers must ensure that occupants have access at all times to a working telephone to contact emergency services. A cellphone may be used only if reception in the area is reliable.

More information about heat illness prevention from Oregon OSHA

- Oregon OSHA's [heat illness prevention page](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#) about Oregon OSHA's heat illness prevention rules
- OAR 437-002-0156 and 437-004-1131 [key requirements](#)
- OAR 437-004-1120(25), Heat Illness Prevention in Labor Housing [key requirements](#)
- Heat illness prevention [online course](#)

Protection from wildfire smoke – what rules apply?

- OAR [437-002-1081](#), Protection from wildfire smoke
- OAR [437-004-9791](#), Protection from wildfire smoke

These rules apply to employers whose employees are or will be exposed to hazardous levels of wildfire smoke. OAR 437-004-9791 applies only to agricultural employers, and OAR 437-002-1081 applies to all other employers, but the requirements in both rules are identical.

These rules do not apply to:

- Enclosed buildings, structures, and vehicles in which air is filtered by a mechanical ventilation system and when exterior openings are kept closed except when it is necessary to briefly open doors to enter or exit

- Employers that have predetermined to suspend operations to prevent employee exposure to wildfire smoke levels for PM2.5 at or above 35.5 µg/m³ (AQI 101)
- Employees working at home

Employers partially exempt from these rules have activities and operations that include:

- Wildland firefighting and associated support activities such as fire camp services and fire management
- Evacuation, rescue, utilities, communications, and medical operations directly involved in or aiding emergency operations or firefighting operations
- Work activities involving only intermittent employee exposure of less than 15 minutes in an hour to wildfire smoke levels for PM2.5 at or above 35.5 µg/m³ (AQI 101), for a total exposure of less than one hour in a single 24-hour period

More information about protection from wildfire smoke from Oregon OSHA

- Oregon OSHA's [Wildfires page](#)
- OAR 437-002-1081 and OAR 437-004-9791, [key requirements](#)
- Wildfire smoke [online course](#) ●

Oregon OSHA wildfire smoke rule as protective as it ever was

By Aaron Corvin

Oregon OSHA wants employers and workers to know that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to change how it calculates and reports Air Quality Index (AQI) values does not increase the threshold levels of Oregon OSHA's wildfire smoke requirements or increase worker exposure to wildfire smoke.

The threshold levels of Oregon OSHA's wildfire smoke requirements are measured in micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) of particulate matter (PM) 2.5.

In May 2024, the EPA changed how the AQI is calculated based on 24-hour exposure to PM2.5. While the EPA modified how it calculates AQI, neither the process for measuring PM2.5 exposure nor the actual concentrations adopted by Oregon OSHA changed.

Oregon OSHA encourages employers and workers to refresh their knowledge of the division's wildfire smoke requirements by using the following resources:

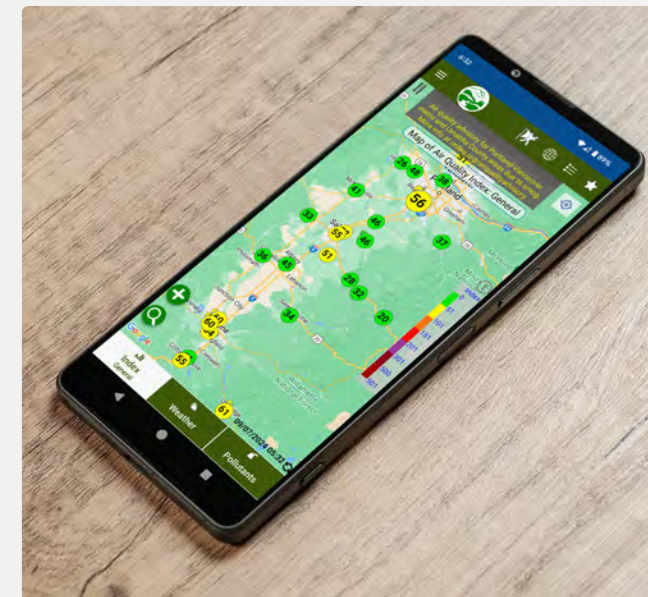
- Fact Sheet: [Protection from wildfire smoke rules key requirements](#) and [in Spanish](#)
- [Wildfire smoke online course](#) (designed to satisfy five of the 10 training requirements found in Oregon OSHA's rules to address exposure to wildfire smoke):
 - [Online course in Spanish](#)
 - All wildfire smoke rule resources available on the "wildfires" [A-to-Z topic page](#)

Oregon OSHA consultants provide free help with safety and health programs, including how to control and eliminate hazards, and hands-on training:

- Phone (toll-free in Oregon): 800-922-2689
- [Field offices](#)
- [Online](#)
- Email: consult.web@dcbs.oregon.gov

Our technical staff offer employers free help understanding requirements and how to apply them to their worksites:

- Phone (toll-free in Oregon): 800-922-2689
- [Online](#)
- Email: tech.web@dcbs.oregon.gov ●



Ask Oregon OSHA

What constitutes a quorum of 10 safety committee members in a centralized safety committee meeting if six members are present and one leaves during the meeting?

Oregon OSHA's general industry rule for safety committees and safety meetings ([OAR 437-001-0765](#)) does not have a quorum requirement. There are requirements for the number of committee members – at least two members if your business has 20 or fewer employees and at least four members if your business has more than 20 employees – and there must be an equal number of employer-selected members and employee-elected (or volunteer) members.

Centralized safety committees are often set up by organizations that have multiple locations but

prefer to have one committee that represents the safety and health concerns of employees at all of the locations. A centralized safety committee must follow the requirements in [437-001-0765](#) and have a written policy that:

- Represents management commitment to the committee
- Requires and describes effective employee involvement
- Describes how the organization will hold employees and managers accountable for safety and health
- Explains specific methods for identifying and correcting safety and health hazards at each location
- Includes an annual written comprehensive review of the committee's activities ●

Short take

New and updated publications offer key safety, health information

By Angie Marsh

To help navigate workplace safety and health, several new and updated publications have been released recently containing information and guidance on best practices and compliance requirements. These publications cover a range of topics, including work refusal, noise exposure, and walking-working surfaces. Employers and employees alike can benefit from using these resources. By staying informed and implementing best practices outlined in these publications, organizations can ensure a safer and healthier workplace.

New Fact Sheet: [Workers' right to refuse dangerous work](#)

Reviews discrimination protections and updated rules specifying an employee's right to refuse dangerous work tasks.



Updated Fact Sheet: [Protection from wildfire smoke rules key requirements](#) and [in Spanish](#)

Oregon OSHA's rules establishing limits for workers' exposure to wildfire smoke particulate matter became permanent in May 2022, calculated based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) particulate matter (PM) standards. In May 2024, the EPA modified how the Air Quality Index (AQI) is calculated based on 24-hour exposure to PM2.5. While the EPA modified how it calculates AQI, neither the process for measuring PM2.5 exposure or the actual concentrations adopted by Oregon OSHA changed.

Updated fact sheet: [Walking-working surfaces](#) and [in Spanish](#)

Provides an overview of walking-working surface requirements in general industry workplaces. Further specifications include: ladders, step bolts, maintenance hole steps, stairways, dockboards, and rope descents.

Updated brochure: [SHARP](#)

Details the program requirements and benefits of workplaces participating in the Oregon Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

New in Spanish: [VPP brochure](#)

Provides details about the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), a cooperative compliance program designed to encourage businesses to exceed minimum safety requirements.

Updated: [HAZWOPER booklets](#)

Offers information related to the hazardous waste operations and emergency response standard: 1910.120, Subdivision 2/H of the Oregon Administrative Rules.

Updated fact sheet: [Cords and cables](#)

Summarizes general industry requirements for flexible cords and cables in wiring design, components, and connectors.

Updated fact sheet: [Noise exposure](#)

Covers hearing conservation programs, specifically exposure monitoring, audiometric testing, recordkeeping, and employee training.

Updated Program Directive: [Combustible dust](#)

Outlines policies and procedures for workplace inspections where combustible dusts are likely to cause dust deflagrations, other fires, or explosions.

To view all 539 of our publications – including a searchable database – visit <https://osha.oregon.gov/pubs/Pages/index.aspx>

Questions about Oregon OSHA publications?

Email our Resource Center at osha.resource@dcbs.oregon.gov

Short take

Oregon OSHA's requirements for catch platforms: everything you need to know

By Ellis Brasch

Falls from heights continue to cause more fatal injuries than any other hazard. Using fall protection that is compliant with Oregon OSHA's regulations along with providing effective training can mean the difference between life and death. For many that work at heights, this means using one of the fall protection systems that is recognized within Oregon OSHA's regulations such as guardrails, safety nets, personal fall arrest systems, positioning systems, travel restraint systems, warning line systems for construction-related roofing work or designated areas related to low-sloped roofs in general industry.

Though not officially recognized in Oregon OSHA's fall protection regulations, a properly designed and positioned temporary platform used to catch materials and employees who might fall from an overhead working surface may also be an option when other Oregon OSHA recognized fall protection systems or methods are not feasible.

What is a catch platform?

A catch platform is a stable platform with attached standard guardrails that can "catch" a falling worker or materials. Because a catch platform does not prevent an employee from falling, it is very important that the horizontal distance that an employee actually free falls

from the walking-working surface they are on down to the surface of the catch platform below is minimized as much as possible. For construction-related activities, that free-fall distance must be less than 6 feet, for general industry covered activities, the free-fall distance must be less than 4 feet. These free-fall fall distances also apply when an employee is

exposed to falling over the sloped [rake edge](#) of any walking working surface. A catch platform must horizontally extend at least 2 feet or more past the eave of an overhang, and the guardrail must extend [substantially](#) above the slope of the roof at the eave to catch the person who is sliding off the roof and prevent the person from passing over or through the rails. If the catch platform



is also providing falling object protection, a toe board must be erected along the edge of platform below the guardrail for a horizontal distance sufficient to protect employees below.

Strength criteria for catch platforms

A catch platform used for fall protection is considered a scaffold system under Oregon OSHA's Division 2, Subdivision D, Scaffolds and [Division 3, Subdivision L, Scaffolds](#) requirements; it must be able to support its own weight and

[at least four times](#) the maximum intended load applied or transmitted to it. [The maximum intended load](#) includes the total load of all persons, equipment, tools, materials, transmitted loads, and other loads reasonably anticipated to be applied to a scaffold or scaffold component at any one time. Remember that during a fall, both horizontal as well as vertical loads are applied to a catch platform; therefore, consideration must be made to ensure that the catch platform cannot collapse or tip over. Consult with a structural engineer and ensure that any evaluation is in

writing and considered both the horizontal and vertical loads.

If using manufactured scaffolding systems or components, never exceed the scaffold's capacity and always follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding proper use, set-up, inspection, maintenance, and replacement. Obtain in writing approval from the scaffold manufacturer that their components can be used as a catch platform for either materials or people.

Training

Adequate training must be provided to workers using catch platforms for fall protection which – at a minimum – includes the nature of any electrical, fall, and falling object hazards in the work area and how to recognize and avoid them, proper procedures for erecting, maintaining, inspecting, and disassembling the catch platforms being used; fall hazards, and the proper procedures.

References

- Division 2, Subdivision D, 1910.27, [Scaffold and rope descent systems](#)
- Division 2, Subdivision D, 1910.28 [Duty to have fall protection and falling object protection](#)
- Division 2, Subdivision I, 1910.140 [Personal Fall Protection Systems](#)
- Division 3, Subdivision L, [Scaffolding](#)
- Division 3, Subdivision M, [Fall Protection](#) ●



Short take

What your safety committee needs to know about conducting workplace inspections

By Ellis Brasch

Does your workplace have a safety committee?

If your workplace has more than 10 employees and is a retail or manufacturing establishment, it most likely has a safety committee – or should have one. Refer to Oregon OSHA's [Safety committees and safety meetings for general industry and construction employers guide](#) to learn more about what workplaces must have a safety committee.

An important task for your safety committee is to establish a procedure for conducting safety and health inspections; the procedure must:

- Establish how often the inspections are conducted. Most workplaces must be inspected quarterly. The exceptions are mobile workplaces and remote sites that have only a few employees; they can be inspected as often as your safety committee deems necessary.
- Establish who conducts the inspections. Those who conduct inspections do not have to be safety committee members but they must be [trained in hazard identification](#) and they must include employer and employee representatives.
- Establish where the inspections are conducted. Your safety committee will have to determine where the potential safety or health hazards are at your workplace.

At many retail and manufacturing workplaces, Oregon OSHA compliance officers frequently find hazards associated with:

- **Fire extinguishers:** Extinguishers are not inspected or maintained.
- **First aid supplies:** Supplies are often missing, too old, or inadequate.
- **Electrical outlets and connections:** Outlets are missing faceplates and connections are not properly grounded.



- **Electrical cabinets:** Breakers are missing there is no clear space around cabinets.
- **Emergency evacuation routes and exits:** Exits are blocked or not clearly identified.
- **Forklifts:** Vehicles are not properly maintained or operators are not trained.
- **Machine guards:** Rotating shafts, belts, and wheels are not guarded.



- **Respirators and other personal protective equipment (PPE):** Equipment is unavailable, improperly stored, or no hazard assessment completed.
- **Portable ladders:** Ladders are defective or not properly maintained.
- **Portable power tools:** Tools are not properly guarded or used without appropriate PPE.
- **Storage areas:** Material is not properly stored.
- **Walking surfaces and stairways:** Surfaces are cluttered or blocked.
- **Vehicles:** Vehicles have defective brakes, lights, horns, or seat belts.
- **Hazard communication:** No written hazard communication program prepared; necessary safety data sheets are not available; primary and secondary container labels are missing.
- **Bloodborne pathogens:** Job classifications, tasks, and procedures do not identify where there is employee exposure a written exposure control plan is not available.
- **Fall protection:** Fall hazards are not identified or properly guarded.
- **Lockout-tagout:** Potential hazardous energy sources are not properly controlled.
- **Emergency eyewashes and showers:** Eyewashes and showers are not available where employees handle substances that could get into their eyes or onto their bodies.

Document your inspection information

Quarterly workplace inspections are an effective way of finding and eliminating hazards before they cause injuries. You should document:

- Who did the inspection
- When was the quarterly inspection held?
- What hazards were identified during the inspection?
- Where were hazards located?
- What will be done to correct the hazards?
- When will the hazards be corrected?

You can create your own quarterly inspection form to collect this inspection information (or you can [use our template](#)).

Tips for inspections

- Create a list of potential hazards to check during the inspection.
- Give inspection duties to several people on a rotating basis, or give each person on an inspection team a different area to inspect. Sharing this responsibility raises hazard awareness for more employees and reinforces the idea that a safe workplace is the responsibility of management and employees.
- Have employees conduct inspections in areas where they don't normally work; they may find hazards that people who routinely work in the area aren't aware of. ●

Short take

Employers across Oregon celebrate safety stand-down

By Aaron Corvin

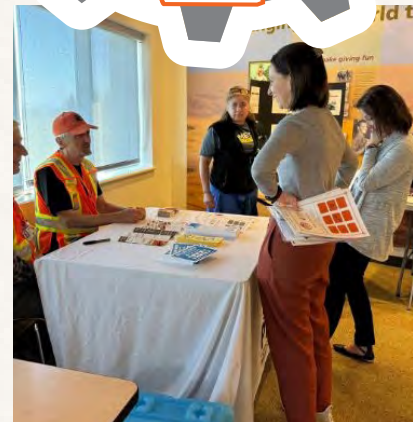
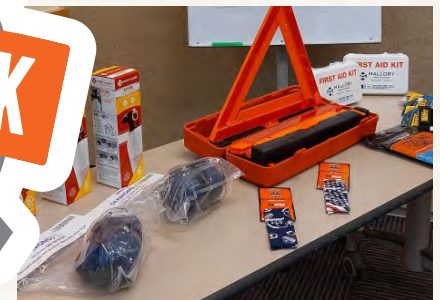
Sixty-six employers across Oregon participated in the 21st Safety Break for Oregon, coordinated by Oregon OSHA to raise awareness and promote the value of workplace safety and health.

Safety Break for Oregon is a one-day event, but the goal to keep workers safe and healthy never ends. It's a project that must be carried out every workday. Get safety resources specific to your workplace at [osha.oregon.gov](https://www.osha-oregon.gov).

Congratulations to the winners of the [Oregon SHARP Alliance](#)-sponsored prize drawing: Ventura Foods, City of Prineville, and Salem Health West Valley Hospital. Each received a \$100 prize for a luncheon of their choice.

And thank you for sharing your #SafetyBreak updates @Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, @Sandy Ridge Berry Farms, @Shriners Children's Hospital, @Thermo Fisher Scientific, and @Ventura Foods.

The annual [Safety Break for Oregon](#) event offers an opportunity to employers, supervisors, and workers across the state to celebrate their safety and health achievements, and to examine and renew their efforts to protect people from harm while on the job. ●





Short take

Oregon workers who died on the job in 2023 honored

By Aaron Corvin

Safety and health advocates, elected officials, and union leaders gathered on Friday, April 26, near the Fallen Workers Memorial in Salem to honor the 56 Oregon workers who died on the job in 2023. During the observance, held every year to commemorate Workers Memorial Day, the names of the fallen workers were read aloud.

Speaking during the ceremony, Oregon OSHA Administrator Renée Stapleton said, "It is our responsibility to stand with you today, to witness the grief of those who mourn their loved ones, and to reaffirm the urgency of our mission: to create safe and healthy workplaces, where the risk of death is eliminated."

The annual Workers Memorial Day serves as a nationwide day of remembrance. The observance is traditionally held on April 28 because Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act on that date in 1970.

Here is the list of workers who died on the job in 2023:

- Josue Lima Castillo
- Caleb Crepau
- Florencio Vega-Santos
- Brandon Norbury
- Carrol Penhollow
- Amado Tello Santos
- Jose Hurtado
- Lewis Sandoval
- Joseph Johnson
- Isaura Soto Gaona
- Michael Stalford
- Troy Ness
- Bradley Freeman
- Dennis Hicketier
- David Mchale
- Barbara Kolada
- Reese Lawhon
- Jim Russell
- Joshue Garcia Garcia
- Alejandro Jimenez Hernandez
- Juan Carlos Leyva Carillo
- Luis Gomez Reyes
- Eddy Alfonso Lopez Lopez
- Alejandra Espinoza Carpio
- Gabriel Tovilla
- Steven Froemke
- Clemence Meyerhofer
- David Ceja Garibay
- Mario Jimenez
- Beth Mckinnon
- Darrel Thew
- Haley Rogers
- Bobby Smallwood
- Meredith Shipman
- Calbert Dougi
- Ildefonso Rosiles-Cisneros
- James Thomas
- Sharon Brock
- Conrado Vasquez
- Stephen Forrest
- Marcellino Baca
- Victor Jones
- Ronald Allen
- Ruslan Basarab
- John Murphy
- Wayne Rhodes
- Jorge Segundo Segundo
- Clayton Kenyon
- Michele Cavallotti
- Myron Thomas
- Anthony Godell
- Brian Flowers
- Alex Pace
- Hamidu Rubawa
- Donald Blumenfeld
- Gonzalo Martinez ●



Incident Alert!

Company Lumber mill
 Hazard..... Unstable plywood storage cart
 Employee Veneer patcher
 Incident date June 2023



In 2020, the company made changes to press number 2 that reduced the width of the corridor, making it too narrow for a forklift to enter.

What happened?

A 46-year-old lumber mill worker was fatally injured when a metal storage cart loaded with 26 pieces of plywood tipped over on him, crushing his chest and causing a massive hemothorax. The employee worked the day shift as a veneer patcher, a job that involved placing small veneer patches over holes in plywood sheets before the sheets were laminated together in a hot press. He had worked for the mill for almost 23 years.

unfilled slots, reusable rough-cut “filler plywood” had to be inserted in the slots for the press to operate properly. To ensure that filler plywood was readily available, employees stored the sheets on a mobile cart in a narrow corridor near the hot press; employees returned the filler plywood to the cart when the hot press operation was finished.

How did it happen?

The mill partially shut down every Friday or Saturday so that employees could do cleanup work in designated areas. On Friday, June 9, the employee was doing his assigned cleanup work near plywood hot press 3.

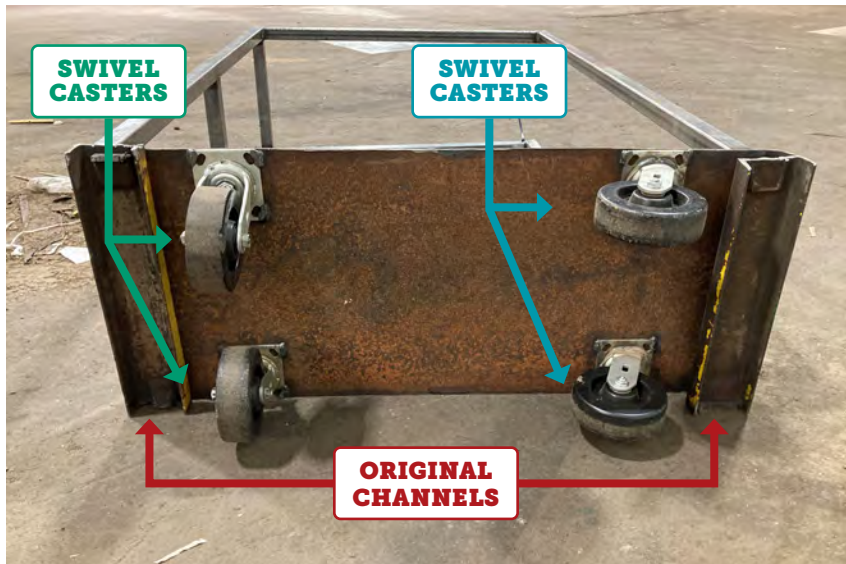
Hot press 3 was used for special orders. Not all the slots for plywood sheets in the hot press were necessary for some orders, however. When there were

The company acquired the cart 25 years ago from the company’s previous owners; at that time it was used as a rack to store sheets of filler plywood and was moved by a forklift. In 2020, the company made changes to an adjacent hot press – press number 2 – that reduced the width of the corridor, making it too narrow for a forklift; so the company converted the rack to a mobile cart by removing two forklift attachment channels from the base and replacing them with four caster wheels.

The day of the incident

One of the employee’s co-workers, who usually cleaned the area, left early; but they had agreed that that the employee would finish the job, which involved moving the loaded cart to clean around press 3 and then moving it back to its original position near a green tool box a short distance away. There were 26 pieces of rough cut filler plywood – 100 inches by 50 inches – stored on the cart. The combined weight of the cart and the filler plywood was 1,117 pounds.

No one saw the incident happen. Another cleanup crew member found the employee under the plywood and cart, which had tipped over; his upper back, shoulders, neck, and head were pinned against a fence that kept workers a safe distance away from press 2.



The company converted the original stationary "cart" to a mobile cart by removing two forklift attachment channels from the base and replacing them with four caster wheels.



There were 26 pieces of rough-cut filler plywood - 100 inches by 50 inches - stored on the cart when the incident happened. The combined weight of the cart and the filler plywood was 1,117 pounds.

Findings

- The company's modifications to the cart in 2020 were not done in accordance with any engineering specifications or industry standards.
- The caster wheels that were added to the cart in 2020 made it unstable when it was loaded with large sheets of filler plywood. Two workers who also did cleanup work around press 3 said that when they moved the cart there was a constant danger of it tipping over. One of the workers said that when he was doing cleanup work around Press 3, the cart tipped over on three different occasions while he was moving it.
- The plywood sheets were stored on the cart with the longest dimension upright, measuring 109 inches above the floor; 11 inches extended over the bottom edge of the cart.
- The center of gravity of the cart loaded with 26 sheets of rough-cut filler plywood - the point where the distribution of weight is equal in all directions - was 58.5 inches above the floor and 9 inches beyond the outside edge of the caster wheels.

Violation

OAR [437-002-0221\(13\)\(a\)](#), Additional Oregon rules for handling materials: All equipment, structures, and appurtenances used for handling or storing materials shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with sound engineering practices and the specifications and recommendations of the manufacturer. ●