

Health and Safety

# RESOURCE

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Occupational Safety  
and Health Conference  
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## RESOURCE

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Photo: Mark Sullivan

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# Change and stability as we enter 2017

By Michael Wood

As we enter 2017, those of us in workplace health and safety throughout the United States are looking toward Washington, D.C., with an increased sense of curiosity ... and even uncertainty. Based on past experience, it is likely to be several months before a new person is named to run federal OSHA – it may even take most of the year to get new leadership in place. In the meantime, several initiatives move forward, while others have uncertain futures. Such a transition – particularly coming after the longest tenure of any OSHA assistant secretary – obviously raises a number of questions.

But here in Oregon, that uncertainty is more a matter of curiosity, because with a state program such as ours, we have the freedom to chart our own course to a large extent. Much of what we do here at Oregon OSHA and in the broader workplace health and safety committee will move forward without regard to changes and shifting perspectives on the national level.

As I've written before, that is because we have a good sense of what works. The fundamentals of workplace health and safety – the need for robust hazard recognition, the need for a supportive system, and the importance of the hierarchy of controls – do not change simply because an old year has passed and a new year has begun. And we know that the balanced approach to workplace health and safety that has marked Oregon's course for decades continues to pay dividends; indeed, the average Oregon workers'



Oregon OSHA Administrator



"We know that a presence in the workplace is a key part of our past success and is likely to determine our future success as well."

compensation premium saw a significant decrease again this year. We understand that the best way to control claims costs is to prevent the injuries from happening in the first place.

In the immediate future, we see the 2017 GOSH Conference. Like our other, smaller conferences, it provides a case study in the value of effective partnerships. GOSH is possible only because of Oregon OSHA's collaboration with the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, as well as through the support of the many GOSH sponsors and other partners.

As we look toward the 2017 legislative session, we will be pursuing funding for additional "boots on the ground" in both enforcement and consultation. We know that a presence in the workplace is a key part of our past success and is likely to determine our future success as well. While we are also seeking to increase the maximum penalties to remain aligned with federal law, we have no plans to deviate from our approach of relying primarily upon modest penalties and a relatively high presence in the workplace as the best approach to encouraging compliance in Oregon workplaces.

While some of our current rulemaking activity takes its cue from federal changes, we have learned the value of bringing a particular Oregon perspective as we seek the most effective and workable responses to such federal rules. Other rulemaking initiatives are entirely state-initiated, such as our ongoing effort to identify and tackle the most relevant out-of-date exposure limits.

The changes in our nation's capital are important ones, of course. But when it comes to charting the course of workplace health and safety in Oregon, those of use who live and work here – employers, workers, and government – are the ones who truly control our future. And that's as it should be.

# Don't miss out



## Education: *Upcoming February and March workshops —*

February 2017	Confined Space Safety . . . . .	Klamath Falls	2/7/17	1 p.m.
	Worker Protection Standard . . . . .	Medford	2/16/17	8 a.m.
	Hazard Communication Program – Aligned with GHS. . . . .	Medford	2/16/17	1 p.m.
	Safety Meetings and Committees . . . . .	Salem	2/22/17	8 a.m.
	Accident Investigation. . . . .	Salem	2/22/17	1 p.m.
March 2017	Worker Protection Standard . . . . .	Milwaukie	2/23/17	8 a.m.
	Hazard Communication Program – Aligned with GHS. . . . .	Milwaukie	2/23/17	1 p.m.
	Worker Protection Standard . . . . .	Eugene	3/14/17	8 a.m.
	Hazard Communication Program – Aligned with GHS. . . . .	Eugene	3/14/17	1 p.m.
	Excavation Safety . . . . .	Roseburg	3/29/17	8 a.m.
Hazard Identification and Control . . . . .	Roseburg	3/29/17	1 p.m.	

For more information: [osha.oregon.gov/edu/Pages/index.aspx](http://osha.oregon.gov/edu/Pages/index.aspx)

For the most recent public education schedule updates: [osha.oregon.gov/edu/Pages/workshops.aspx](http://osha.oregon.gov/edu/Pages/workshops.aspx)

GOSH 2017



**OREGON GOVERNOR'S OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 6-9, 2017**

The **LARGEST** Safety & Health Event in the Northwest

[oregongosh.com](http://oregongosh.com)



The GOSH Conference is a joint effort of ASSE, Columbia-Willamette Chapter, and Oregon OSHA.



## Conference lineup – Save these dates!

**Northwest Safety & Health Summit (Region X VPPPA)**



• May 16 – 18, 2017 • Spokane, Washington

**Blue Mountain Occupational Safety & Health Conference**



• June 5 & 6, 2017 • Pendleton

**Central Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference**



• September 19 & 20, 2017 • Bend

**Southern Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Conference**



• October 17-19, 2017 • Ashland

**Western Pulp, Paper, & Forest Products Safety & Health Conference**



• November 28 - December 1, 2017 • Portland

**Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit**



• January 29 & 30, 2018 • Bend

**Cascade Occupational Safety & Health Conference**



• March 5 & 6, 2018 • Eugene

**Oregon GOSH Conference – will return March 2019!**

# Did you know?



• ***If you own and operate a crane on a construction site, and the crane operator is your employee, you must comply with all Subdivision CC requirements (the cranes and derricks standard) because you control the hazards the crane may create.***

• ***If you operate a leased crane on a construction site, and the leasing company tells you that the crane meets Oregon OSHA's requirements, you cannot assume that the crane meets Subdivision CC requirements. You are the employer operating the crane and you are responsible for complying with all requirements. Even if the leasing company tells you the crane meets requirements, you must verify the claim, including by asking the company for the most recent monthly and annual inspection reports.***

• ***A controlling entity is an employer who has overall responsibility for a construction project. Examples include primary contractors, general contractors, and construction managers.***

For more information about cranes and derricks in construction, go to: [osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/4927.pdf](https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/4927.pdf)



## datapoints:

- Under Oregon OSHA's construction rules for steel erection, guardrail systems must be capable of withstanding a force of at least 200 pounds applied within 2 inches of the top edge in any outward or downward direction at any point along the top edge.
- Where steel joists at or near columns span 60 feet or less, the joist must be designed with sufficient strength to allow one employee to release the hoisting cable without the need for erection bridging.
- All columns must be anchored by a minimum of four anchor bolts.
- Rules for landing and placing loads include the requirement that the weight of a bundle of joist bridging must not exceed 1,000 pounds.
- For more information about steel erection rules, go to [osha.oregon.gov/rules/Pages/division-3.aspx#subr](https://osha.oregon.gov/rules/Pages/division-3.aspx#subr) and click on Subdivision R.



## Quotable:

*What a strange sense of logic to fixate on the absence of something (injury) as a demonstration of the presence of something else (safety). Such a proposition misunderstands the dynamic of risk and being human.*

– Dr. Robert Long, principal and trainer at Human Dymensions

# GOSH Conference: Why is the Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference important?

By Aaron Corvin

It's a place to go to refresh your commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace.

It's a place where you'll find local and national experts weighing in on how to go beyond reacting to hazards by building a sustainable culture of safety.

It's a place to build relationships with others who share the same commitment to worker safety and health.

It's the 35th biennial Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health (GOSH) Conference, to be held March 6-9 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

**Registration is now open.**



"This event provides a unique opportunity for organizations to breathe new life into their commitment to on-the-job safety and health," said Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood. "Everyone from professionals in the field to employers, supervisors and workers on the front lines can use GOSH as a fresh reminder of why workplace health and safety matters. Ultimately, it's about bringing people together to soak up

new knowledge, discuss best safety and health practices, and to tackle emerging issues – all with the goal of sending workers home safe to their family and friends."

Offering 145 exhibit booths and more than 150 different workshops – and expected to attract 1,700 attendees – the event is the largest of its kind in the Northwest.



**Keynote speaker Todd Conklin** will present “Thinking Differently About Safety” on Tuesday, March 7. Conklin, who has a doctorate in organizational behavior, spent 25 years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory as a senior advisor for organizational and safety culture. He speaks all over the world to executives, groups, and work teams who are interested in better understanding the relationship between workers in the field and an organization’s systems, processes, and programs.

The GOSH awards luncheon honors employers, workers, and teams that have excelled at maintaining safe and healthy workplaces. ▶

“Safety is not the absence of events. Safety is the presence of defenses.”

– Todd Conklin

Conklin’s presentation will focus on the human performance theory of safety, where investigations are conducted before accidents happen. “Safety is not the absence of events,” he said. “Safety is the presence of defenses.”

The GOSH conference is important because it will enable managers and workers to absorb and discuss “the new human performance theory of safety in a supportive environment,” Conklin said. “A comparison and contrast between the old system of ‘blame and fix’ and the human performance theory of investigating before an accident happens can be presented.”

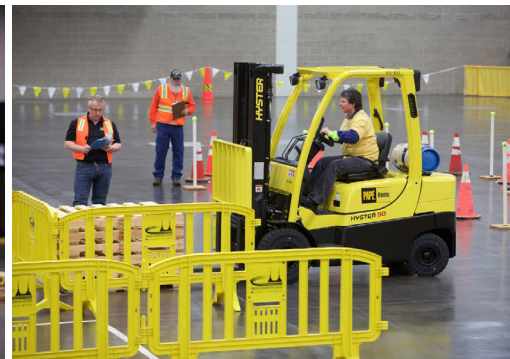
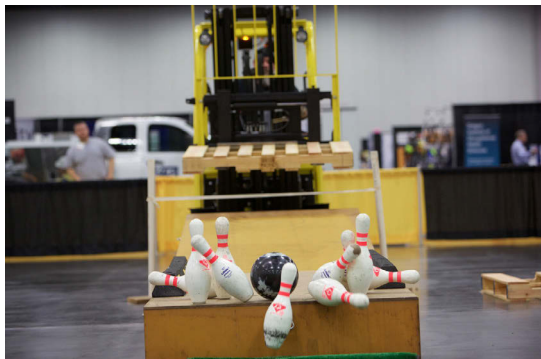
A top goal of his presentation, Conklin said, is to “introduce the possibility of preventing ‘post-event’ learning and to focus instead on pre-accident investigation involving systems, managers, and workers.”

The new safety theory, Conklin added, can “save a company money, and, most of all, save lives.”

*In addition to Conklin’s presentation, the GOSH event will offer session tracks on many specialties, including:*

- Construction
- Workplace violence prevention
- Motor vehicle safety
- Emergency response and preparedness
- Communication and training
- Utilities
- Craft brewing and winemaking





**Meanwhile, the Columbia Forklift Challenge will offer trained forklift drivers a chance to compete for cash, in an obstacle course designed to test their skills and safe operation. Registration for the March 8 competition is [now open](#).**

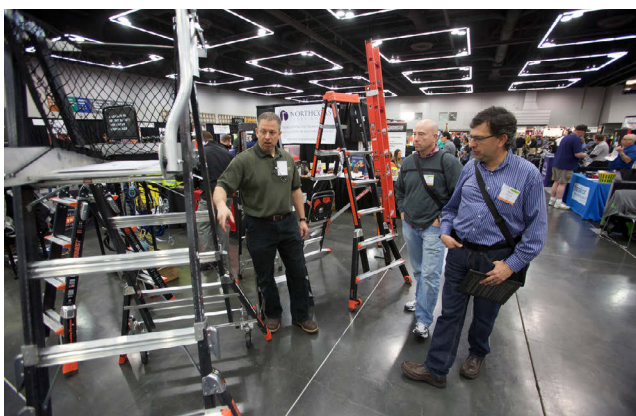
A joint effort of the American Society of Safety Engineers Columbia-Willamette Chapter and Oregon OSHA, the GOSH conference offers “something for everyone,” according to Luke Betts, senior safety management consultant for SAIF Corporation.

Since 2009, Betts has attended GOSH conferences either as a volunteer, participant, or both. He served as conference chair in 2013. And he’s looking forward to being there again this year.

“There are multiple benefits for attendees,” he said. “Although it is certainly aimed at the safety professional, it is also a conference for managers, supervisors, safety committee members, engineers, and really anyone interested in advancing their safety knowledge in a huge variety of subjects at different skill levels.” ■



The GOSH conference, which attracts 1,700 participants, offers numerous exhibits, safety and health workshops, and networking opportunities - all with the idea of identifying and eliminating workplace hazards.





# GOSH: How Oregon's governors shaped its history

by Ellis Brasch

Oregon's Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference, better known as *Oregon GOSH*, had its origins in Salem over two autumn days in 1944: Sept. 25 and 26 to be precise. The venue was the Marion Hotel, except for "the final group meeting" at the



State Capitol. To ensure that the focus remained strictly on safety – "health" had not yet crept into the lexicon – conference organizers made sure that customary conference frills were entirely eliminated. There would be

no evening banquet. Seventy-nine people attended the "First Annual Oregon Industrial Safety Conference," including Oregon's 23rd governor, Earl Snell.

Without knowing it, Snell set the precedent for a unique brand of workplace safety conference with the distinguished provenance of the Governor's Office. They would become known as governor's conferences, but not for another five years.



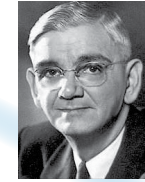
Earl Snell  
**1944**  
1st state-wide industrial safety conference  
Salem



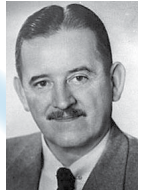
John Hubert Hall  
**1947**  
4th annual industrial safety conference  
Salem



James D. McKay  
**1949 through 1952**  
1st through 4th "annual" governor's conferences  
Portland

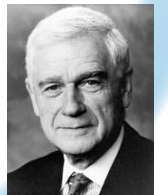


Paul L. Patterson  
**1952 and 1953**  
5th and 6th annual governor's conferences  
Portland



Robert D. Holmes  
**1957**  
7th governor's conference  
Portland

## Oregon's governors and the Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference



Mark O. Hatfield  
**1959**  
8th governor's conference  
Portland



Tom McCall  
**1969**  
13th governor's conference  
Salem

**'60, '62, '66**  
9th, 10th, 12th governor's conference  
Salem



Ted Kulongoski  
**2009**  
31st governor's conference  
Portland



Neil Goldschmidt  
**1987**  
25th governor's conference  
Portland



Bob Straub  
**1978**  
16th governor's conference  
Portland

The following year, 116 people registered and 120 people attended the Second Annual Oregon Industrial Safety Conference in December, "designed as a practical, down-to-earth group approach to industrial accident prevention." The down-to-earth nature of the event was highlighted by "safety quizmasters" who interrupt the discussions with 15-minute examinations, which "threaten to take the interest away from the major subjects of the session."

**O**regon Industrial Safety Conferences drew more attendees each year, but a governor was absent until 1947 when Gov. John Hubert Hall spoke to 228 folks who attended the fourth annual conference at the American Legion Hall in Salem.

In 1949, Gov. James Douglas McKay officially made the Oregon Industrial Safety Conference the Governor's Industrial Safety Conference. The venue was the Masonic Temple in Portland, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The publication, *Safer Oregon*, noted: "The sponsorship of this conference by Oregon's Governor Douglas McKay ... marks the beginning of an active participation in the work of Industrial Accident Prevention by a top administrative official."

Seven hundred people registered for the free conference and 572 people attended – the largest turnout ever for an Oregon safety conference.



As a result of the 1949 conference, McKay established Oregon's first Industrial Safety Advisory Committee, which brought together business and labor leaders to address workplace safety issues statewide.

McKay presided over the next three conferences. The big issue at the 1950 conference was rearmament – the U.S. effort to build up West Germany after World War II; as a result, "industrial accident trends... after a long period of gradual decline" were increasing. McKay also recommended establishing smaller regional safety conferences across the state.

**M**ore than 900 people attended the 1951 conference; McKay addressed the opening session and urged the participants to think of safety as a cooperative community project.

McKay also delivered the keynote address at the fourth annual Governor's Conference in 1952; however, newcomer Tom Lawston McCall – former assistant to McKay and political commentator on KGW – was master of ceremonies during the Thursday-evening banquet.

The fifth Governor's Conference received national attention in 1953 when at least 12 states announced that delegates were coming. Oregon's 26th governor, Paul L. Patterson, addressed the opening assembly, but "Mrs. George H. Buckler, a housewife," stole the show with a follow-up speech: "Safety is a man's subject." She reminded listeners that, "Aside from a few luminous career women, the majority of women are entirely dependent for their future upon one person, the husband."

**T**he sixth annual Governor's Conference drew a record 1,125 attendees in 1954. In fact, the Masonic Temple couldn't hold everyone and it was necessary to secure more conference rooms in the nearby First Congregational Church and the art museum. Gov. Patterson attended and credited industry, labor, and state-government officials for their accident prevention work. Pioneering safety engineer Dorothy Shane (also a nurse) at C.D. Johnson Lumber Corporation gave a talk to the Sawmilling Section on "What's behind the scenes in a successful safety program."

The Governor's Conference took the year off in 1955; it was the first year since 1944 that a statewide conference had not been held. Instead, plans were made to hold 26 regional conferences over the next three years. The new plan called for the Governor's Conference to be held in alternate years, along with the regional safety conferences.

### Did you know?

- Oregon is one of at least 11 states that have governor's safety and health conferences.
- In addition to Oregon's governors, two assistant secretaries of labor have attended Oregon GOSH conferences: Charles Jeffress in 1999 and John Henshaw in 2003.
- GOSH has grown. 2015 stats: 1,700 attendees, 145 exhibit booths and more than 150 different sessions/workshops.



Oregon's 28th governor, Robert D. Holmes, gave the opening address at the seventh Governor's Conference on May 16, 1957, at Portland's Multnomah Hotel, declaring, "We

must double and triple our efforts to educate the public in safety as industry has been educated. There is no way we can legislate common sense or prudence."

Coincidentally, S. M. Purdy, supervisor of safety and training at Portland Gas & Coke Company, had just finished a lecture on natural gas, the "magic fuel." He had also planned a safe-use demonstration of the gas, but abandoned the idea "due to potential fire hazards."



"We must double and triple our efforts to educate the public in safety as industry has been educated. There is no way we can legislate common sense or prudence."

– Gov. Robert D Holmes

Gov. Mark O. Hatfield was the featured speaker at the 1959 Governor's Conference in April at the Masonic Temple, where he gathered with guests at the evening safety banquet to listen to The Trebles, "an attractive all-girl quartet" from Pacific University who sang four songs.

The ninth Governor's Conference happened the following year – 1960 – at a new venue: the Marion Motor Hotel in Salem. "Education in accident prevention" was the theme and Hatfield delivered the opening address, noting "Oregon has one of the finest safety programs in the nation."

The next three Governor's Conferences returned to the alternate-years format: 1962, 1964, and 1966. Hatfield gave the opening address at the 1962 Conference, telling attendees that the goal of Oregon's safety program is to accomplish its mission "in a friendly and fair manner using the consultative approach, expanded educational activities, special industry programs, and ... better public relations." At the 1966 gathering – Governor's Conference No. 12 – the theme was "Reaching for maximum industrial safety" and there was a good reason for Hatfield to feel pleased about the event. He could tell conference-goers that the "fatality figure" was 92 in 1965, an all-time low, and the "injury frequency" per million hours worked had dropped from 45 in 1960 to 36.

The 13th Governor's Conference would not take place until February 1969 at Salem's Marion Motor Hotel. Gov. Tom McCall, who had been in office for nearly three years, delivered the opening address on Friday, reflecting on the conference theme, "Safer days through changing ways."

Nine years later, Gov. Bob Straub opened the 1978 Governor's Conference at the Hilton Hotel in Portland. But there was some tension in the air from the union picket line that was blocking the entrance. Straub refused to cross the line, but

eventually made it to the speaker's podium in the auditorium. Nine more years would pass before another governor – Neil Goldschmidt – attended a Governor's Conference. Goldschmidt and Portland mayor Bud Clark spoke at the Conference's popular Hoot Owl Breakfast at the Lloyd Center Red Lion Hotel in 1987.

Twenty-two years later, Ted Kulongoski – the last governor to attend the Governor's Conference – spoke at GOSH 2009 at the Oregon Convention Center. "As we look forward to the future," he said, "we face new challenges to join the old. Sustainability, nanotechnology, new manufacturing techniques, and changes in the composition of the workforce will demand creativity and genuine commitment to workplace health and safety." ■



*Special thanks to Claire Bolyard, Oregon State Library research librarian, and Oregon OSHA conference coordinator, Sharell Lien, for help with the background research.*

# Ask Technical

**Q:** *Will Oregon OSHA require employers to electronically submit a summary of their employees' injuries and illnesses to OSHA?*

*I have heard that, starting in 2017, many employers will be required to electronically submit a summary their employees' injuries and illnesses to OSHA. Will Oregon OSHA be requiring Oregon employers to do the same thing?*

**A:** Yes. On Nov. 10, 2016, Oregon OSHA adopted changes to its Division 1 requirements for reporting workplace injuries and illnesses to align them with federal OSHA's requirements. (As part of its state plan agreement with federal OSHA, Oregon OSHA's rules must be at least as affective as OSHA's.)

The key changes in Oregon OSHA's Division 1 rule – 437-001-0700, Recording Workplace Injuries and Illnesses – become effective May 1, 2017. Among the changes, the rule requires employers to electronically submit injury and illness records to federal OSHA annually if they are in one of the following categories:

- They had 250 or more employees at any time during the previous calendar year and are required to maintain an OSHA 300 log.
- They are in an industry listed in the rule and had 20 or more employees but fewer than 250 employees at any time during the previous calendar year.
- You can find more information about the requirements on [Oregon OSHA's website](#).



# Short takes

## Online course offers safety training to young workers

Young workers are injured more often than older workers. They are more likely to try something they don't know how to do. And they may not ask questions to avoid looking inexperienced.

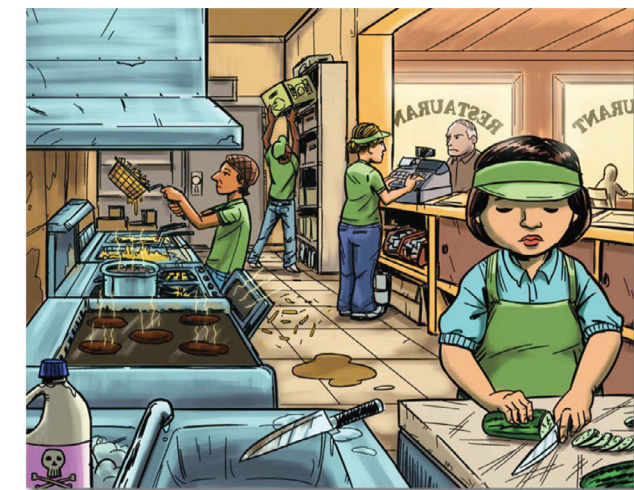
Yet, knowledge is power. So is training. That's why the nonprofit Oregon Young Employee Safety Coalition, of which Oregon OSHA is a member, has produced new online training program for young workers.

Accessible by smartphone and tablet, the training covers everything from finding and controlling hazards and young worker rights and responsibilities to how to speak up for safety and how to prepare for emergencies at work.

The program, which includes a student workbook, can be completed in about 45 minutes. Designed to be flexible, the program does not have to be finished all at once.

To access the training program, go to [osha.oregon.gov/edu/grants/Pages/oc/oyes-online-training.aspx](http://osha.oregon.gov/edu/grants/Pages/oc/oyes-online-training.aspx)

For more information about the Oregon Young Employee Safety Coalition, visit [youngemployeesafety.org](http://youngemployeesafety.org)



The student workbook features illustrations for students to identify the hazards in various workplace environments.

0[yes]

Oregon young  
employee safety



A Division of the  
Department of Consumer  
and Business Services

## Expect more changes to fall protection rules for construction

Employers who do construction work in Oregon have already seen a major rule change this year: On Jan. 1, Oregon OSHA's minimum height at which workers must be protected from falls lowered to six feet from 10.

Yet, there is another change on the way.

Beginning Oct. 1, slide guards will no longer be allowed as a method of protecting workers from falling off sloped roofs.

The new requirement means construction contractors using slide guards as a primary means of fall protection will need to use a different protection method. Equipment is available, including personal fall arrest and fall restraint systems.

Falls to a lower level are the leading type of fall in Oregon's construction industry. From 2013 to 2015, a total of 774 construction workers were injured by falling to a lower level.



**Oregon OSHA's technical staff can answer questions to help employers understand how to apply rules to their workplace:**

**Phone:** 503-378-3272

**Toll-free in Oregon:** 800-922-2689

**Email:** [tech.web@oregon.gov](mailto:tech.web@oregon.gov)

**Online contact form:** [osha.oregon.gov/Pages/Contact-Technical.aspx](https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/Contact-Technical.aspx)

**Employers may also contact Oregon OSHA's no-cost consultation services for help with safety and health programs:**

**Toll-free in Oregon:** 800-922-2689

**Field offices:** [osha.oregon.gov/Pages/maps.aspx](https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/maps.aspx)

**Email:** [consult.web@oregon.gov](mailto:consult.web@oregon.gov)

**For more information about the fall-protection rule changes:**

**Fact sheet –** [osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/factsheets/fs64.pdf](https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/factsheets/fs64.pdf)

**Fall protection topic page –** [osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/fall-protection.aspx](https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/fall-protection.aspx)

## Online course helps employers protect workers from bloodborne pathogens

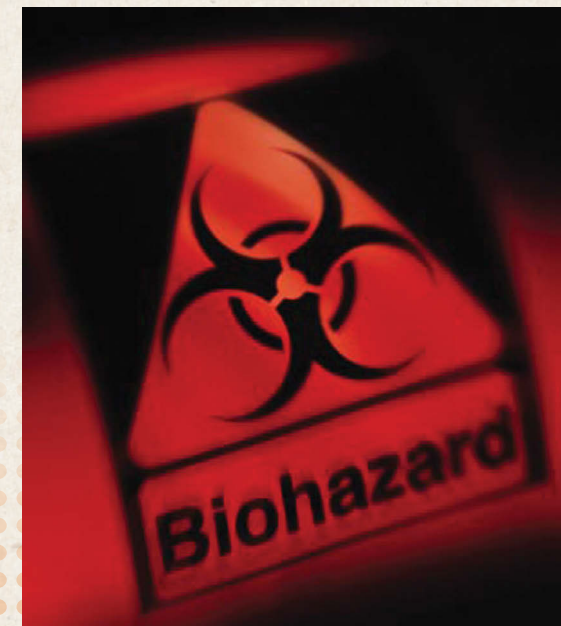
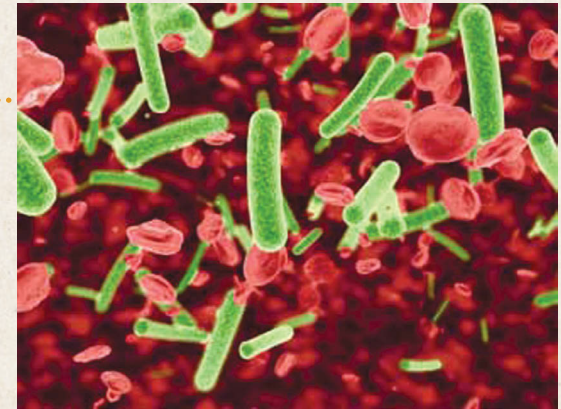
Oregon OSHA has created an online course to help employers protect workers from bloodborne pathogens in health care, emergency response, housekeeping, and other industries.

Featuring videos, interactive scenarios, and a quiz, the course is designed to boost the ability of employers and managers to meet the requirements of Oregon OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard. Topics covered include assessing the potential for exposure in your workplace, understanding the critical elements of an exposure-control plan, preventing and lessening exposures, and administering your exposure control plan.

"Employers can use this flexible online course to help build an effective exposure-control plan, refresh their knowledge of the topic, or check whether their existing plans meet current rules," said Roy Kroker, consultation and public education manager for Oregon OSHA.

The stakes are high. Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. They include hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and human immunodeficiency virus. Needlesticks and other sharps-related injuries occur to 600,000 health care personnel each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The online course includes contact information and other helpful links. Participants have the option of receiving a certificate of completion. The course is available at <http://osha.oregon.gov/edu/courses/Pages/oc/bloodborne-pathogens-online-course.aspx>



## Information-sharing agreement aims to boost workplace safety

Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program have signed a letter of agreement that calls on the agencies to share information to boost the quality and quantity of fatality investigations and investigative reports by FACE.

The agreement was signed on Jan. 19 by Michael Wood, administrator for Oregon OSHA, Ryan Olson, project director for Oregon FACE, and Curtis Cude, environmental public health surveillance program manager for the Oregon Health Authority.

Oregon FACE is a project of the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences at Oregon Health & Science University. It is supported by a cooperative agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health through the Occupational Public Health Program of the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority.

The FACE program is designed to increase the understanding of factors that contribute to workplace deaths and to identify effective prevention strategies.

***Under the agreement, Oregon OSHA and FACE will cooperate in many ways, including:***

- OSHA fatality investigators will provide all employers, at the opening or closing of an investigation, an informational pamphlet on the FACE research and investigation program
- FACE researchers will participate as silent observers for selected OSHA fatality investigations
- OSHA fatality investigators may nominate compelling, recently closed OSHA investigation cases for follow-up and further investigation by FACE
- FACE may conduct investigation activities independent of OSHA processes



Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program signed an information-sharing agreement on Jan. 19. Those signing the agreement were (left to right): Ryan Olson, project director for Oregon FACE, Curtis Cude, environmental public health surveillance program manager for Oregon Health Authority, and Michael Wood, administrator for Oregon OSHA.

In addition to sharing information, OSHA and FACE will work together to produce and distribute comprehensive outreach and educational materials.



## Get ready for *Safety Break for Oregon* 2017

May 10 is a day to come together and reflect on and talk about why workplace safety and health matter in our lives. It's a day to put safety into action and to renew our commitment to preventing on-the-job injury, illness, and death.

Employers across Oregon are invited to participate in Safety Break for Oregon on Wednesday, May 10, an event aimed at raising awareness and promoting the value of safety and health in shielding workers from harm. Now in its 14th year, Safety Break encourages employers to bolster workplace safety and health with training, award recognition gatherings, or other creative activities.

Oregon OSHA coordinates Safety Break, which is voluntary for employers. Businesses and other employers can decide what activities are most beneficial to their workforce.

Safety Break encourages employees and managers to work together to identify safety and health concerns. The result of this cooperation can lead to fewer injuries and reduced workers' compensation costs for employers.

Companies that participate will be entered to win one of three \$100 checks, to be used for a luncheon of their choice, when they [sign up online](#) by Friday, May 5: The prizes will be given to participating companies as part of a random drawing. The Oregon SHARP Alliance is sponsoring the contest.

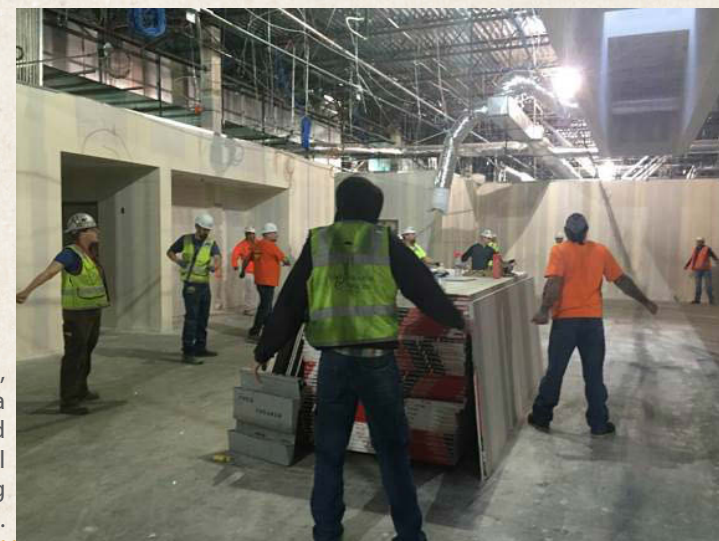
For more information, ideas on how to host an event, or to download graphics, visit the [Safety Break for Oregon website](#).



Kirby Nagelhout Construction in Bend held several Safety Break-related activities in 2016, including toolbox talks and barbecues.



During Safety Break in 2016, Fred Shearer & Sons Inc., a Beaverton-based wall and ceiling contractor, held several activities, including a morning stretch and safety discussion.



## Oregon OSHA's conference coordinator honored for advancing workplace safety, health education

*Sharell Lien, conference coordinator for Oregon OSHA, received a Safety Advocate Award, which recognizes her crucial contributions in advancing workplace safety and health education.*

Members of the planning team for the Western Pulp, Paper & Forest Products Safety & Health Conference presented the award to Lien at the awards dinner during the Nov. 29-Dec. 2 conference.

The award came as a surprise to Lien, who is not one to seek the spotlight. "The group had to be crafty to orchestrate the award being a surprise since I knew the awards evening script and presentation," she said. "My manager, Sue Kailey, drove to Portland in rush-hour traffic to attend the presentation, which I didn't know until I stepped off the stage. I work with so many thoughtful and supportive people."

Lien has worked with conferences co-sponsored by Oregon OSHA since 1995. She was promoted to conference coordinator in 2003.

The statement that accompanied the award said, in part, that Lien's "knowledge, patience, perseverance, leadership, and overall dedication are second to none. She demonstrates a caring attitude towards everyone and has earned the respect and credibility she so deserves."

The statement also said that Lien's "efforts and commitment to the safety and health field inspires all conference attendees to be partners in safety, steering towards the future."



Lien said her passion for her job is driven by "seeing the energy of the planning committee members and conference attendees when they gather and share successes and challenges in workplace safety and health."

That energy builds as they learn new skills and techniques to improve safety at their workplaces, Lien said. And they return to work ready to overcome hurdles and to put what they learned into practice.

"The positive results of our conferences fuel me to the next event," she said, "and working with the great team of Jill McConnell (conference specialist) and Diane Kronemann (conference assistant)."

# Safety Notes

## What happened?

A forklift operator was moving a unit of melamine sheeting to a scissor lift when the load tipped and 30 sheets of melamine, weighing 100 pounds each, fell on a co-worker, who was standing nearby.

## How it happened

Two workers, both sander operators, had been working on the No. 4 sander in the morning, finishing sheets of laminated material and they needed more. One of the workers got in a forklift and drove to the nearby laminate press where there were four units ready to be sanded.

The other worker walked over to the press as the forklift pulled up and watched from about 12 feet away.

The forklift operator had been running sanders for more than 12 years and driving forklifts for more than 40 years. He maneuvered the forklift into position to retrieve the top unit from a stack of three units. He wanted to put the top unit on a nearby scissor lift so that he could retrieve the lower unit in the stack (there were 40, four-foot by eight-foot sheets of melamine in each unit). He lifted the unit up about nine feet, just enough to clear the remaining two units.

He only had to back up and turn the forklift a short distance to set the load on the scissor lift. While he was lowering the load, the edge caught on the remaining two units, but he didn't know it. As he continued lowering the unit, the unsecured sheets began cascading off the forks towards his co-worker, who had no time to get out of the way.

## Accident Report

**Incident:** Fatality

**The company:** A hardwood veneer and plywood manufacturer

**The worker:** A sander operator



The first two sheets pinned the worker to the floor as the remaining sheets tumbled onto his lower torso and legs. It all happened in a matter of seconds. Medical responders arrived after a 911 call and took him to a nearby hospital where he died as a result of his injuries.

Several years before this incident, there was a similar one in which melamine sheets tipped off the forks of a forklift. The company's employees knew that unsecured melamine sheets could slide easily.

### Applicable standard

Rules for all workplaces, Employers' responsibilities, 437-001-0760(1)(b)(C): The company did not take all reasonable means to require employees to use means and methods necessary to safely accomplish work where employees were exposed to a hazard.



Melamine sheeting.

# Going the Distance

Andy Collins knows the ins and outs of building and assembling steel for high rises, bridges, and other structures that help define the places we live.

A second-generation ironworker, he's got 40 years as a union ironworker under his belt. That experience includes 26 years as a safety director and consultant. You name it – putting up high rises and factories in the Portland metro area, building cranes, welding, placing rebar, and more – and he's done it.

Blending his experience in the field with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Collins serves as safety director for REFA Erection Inc. and as safety consultant for Fought & Company Inc., a steel fabricator. Fought is part of REFA. Both companies are based in the Portland area.

Over the years, Collins has partnered with Oregon OSHA by participating in various committees, working with the agency's consultation program, and sharing his knowledge during visits to job sites.

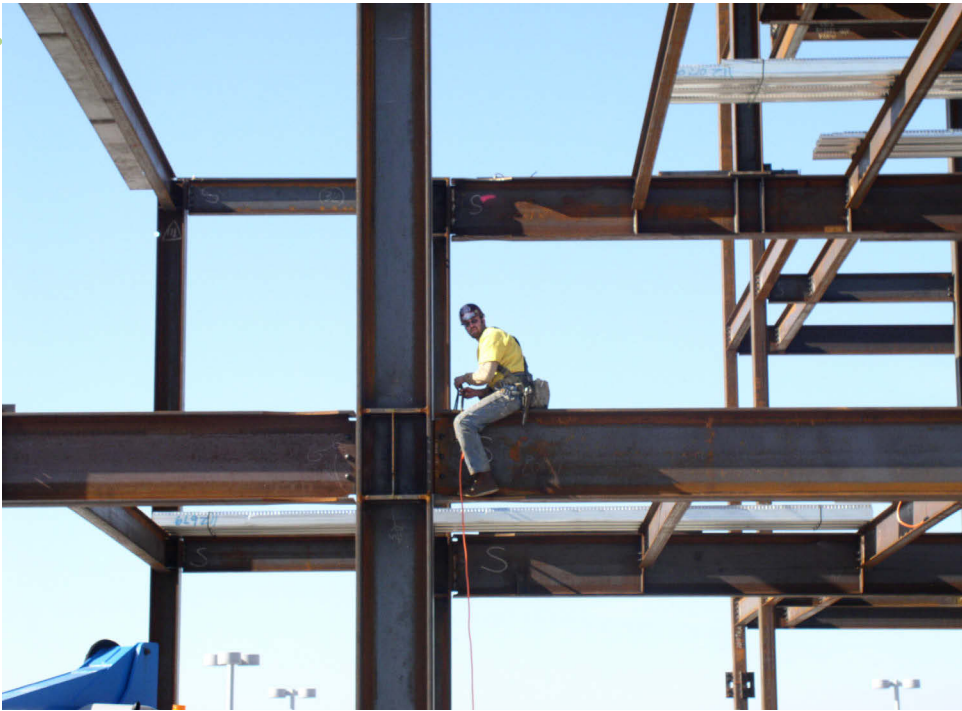
Resource sat down with Collins recently to talk about his experiences, how he measures success in safety, and his advice to others.

**Company:** REFA Erection Inc. / Fought & Company, Inc

**Safety Director/Safety Consultant:** Andy Collins

**Workforce:** Depending on the project, Collins interacts with crews numbering 15 to more than 1,000.

**Workplace Hazards:** Falls from heights and concerns related to handling, lifting, and transporting heavy components.



*The following has been edited for clarity and brevity:*

### **How have things changed in terms of safety in your line of work?**

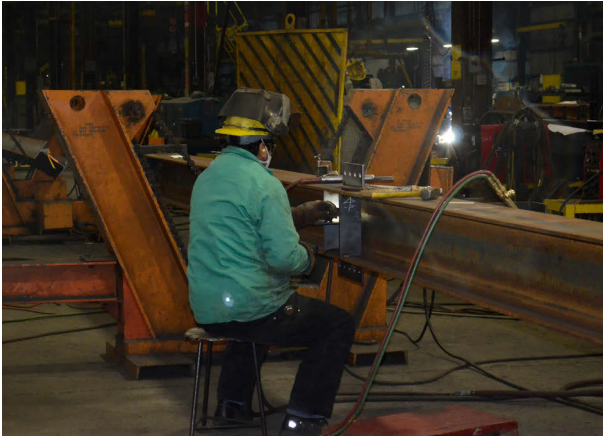
There are so many more rules. People are aware of it nowadays. You have engineered erection plans, fall protection plans. You have all this information that's out there, so you basically have everything in your means and methods to do it right and to do it safe. So, basically, if you follow your plans, then the only thing you have to worry about is the human element. If everyone's focused on their job, and all of the safety measures and means are in place, the bottom line is everything should go well. For every job, we do an orientation so we know if you're an apprentice. We know what your background is, and we give you a task to succeed.



“You have all this information that's out there, so you basically have everything in your means and methods to do it right and to do it safe.”

— Andy Collins





Fought & Company Inc., based in Tigard, specializes in steel fabrication for bridges, and commercial and industrial buildings.



Photos: Ron Conrad

### When it comes to keeping workers safe, how do you measure success?

Everybody goes home every day. I don't care who you work for – everybody on the project.

### What are some important things you've learned about safety over the years?

You have to relate to workers on a human level. The person out there in the field, they don't want to get hurt. How do you help them succeed without getting hurt? I'm the biggest control freak in the world. That was the hardest

*“My biggest pet peeve is a blanket safety policy. Everybody's hazards are different, no matter what you do for a living.”*

— Andy Collins

thing for me to learn – how do I gain their trust and allow them to be themselves when somebody sitting in a cubicle is telling them how to do their job. It's called give and take. I would give them little things. I would take hazards that were irrelevant to them, and I'd say, “Look, I'm going to go to bat for you, but this is what I need from you – 100 percent, no cheating, because I know how to look for a guy cheating on his fall protection and tying off. If I catch you doing this, all bets are off.” It

got me credibility. They don't want an insurance person or an office guy telling them how to build a building when they're the ones trained to do it. Their life's on the line. My biggest pet peeve is a blanket safety policy. Everybody's hazards are different, no matter what you do for a living.



### What is some advice you'd give to those looking to keep their workplaces safe, for others seeking a career in this field?

The first thing I would ask is, upper management – where do they stand? Do they talk safety or do they breathe safety? Safety has a huge cost, but it's an even bigger cost if somebody gets hurt. A lot of the safety people don't have 100 percent backing from the top, and there are so many great safety people out there right now that may not ever reach their potential because they don't have the full support of upper management. I don't care. I'm going to look at everything. I'm going to look at everybody on this job. I'm here, walking around. I'm just going to check out everything. You know, I was lucky enough to work for the best – the best. I had, from day one, buy-in from the top, which allowed me to – because of the nature of our work and the risk – do what I needed to do. ■



Over the years, Collins has partnered with Oregon OSHA. For example, he's shared his knowledge during visits to job sites, including a high-rise project at Portland International Airport.



“Safety has a huge cost, but it's an even bigger cost if somebody gets hurt.”

– Andy Collins