



Who is OSHA?

If you think that OSHA is a small town in Wisconsin, think again! Oregon OSHA (the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division) administers the Oregon Safe Employment Act (1973) and enforces Oregon's occupational safety and health rules. These rules establish minimum safety and health standards for all industries.

OSHA's mission is to advance and improve workplace safety and health for all workers in Oregon, noting that one of the most important ways to help reduce workers' compensation costs is to lower the incidence of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

Oregon leads the nation in innovative programs to make this state a safer, healthier place to work. These programs assist in the protection of more than one million workers and provide a basis for employers to recognize and implement state-of-the-art occupational safety and health techniques. They mandate training and education for both employees and employers about workplace hazards and how to eliminate them.

Workers' compensation program reform in 1990 further stressed the importance of occupational safety and health by requiring safety committees in most businesses. Safety committees allow and encourage employees to shape safety culture within their workplace.

Labor/management cooperation led OHSU to push the concept of safety committees to a higher level, in the form of the OHSU SafetyTeam. This group is made up of many employees from many different OHSU locations. This allows a greater visibility and accessibility of safety resources at such a large institution

The OHSU SafetyTeam also allows more employees than ever to get involved in occupational health and safety issues and gives employees direct access to some of the finest safety professionals in the business.

