40 Weeks: A Story About Hair, Beauty and Formaldehyde

Stylist health complaints at an Oregon hair salon led to the discovery that a popular hair salon product contains high concentrations of formaldehyde, revealing gaps in labeling and Material Safety Data Sheets and leading to legal proceedings. This case illustrates why the Hazard Communication Standard is critical for protecting people at work.

**WEEK 1**
Stylist contacts CROET

**WEEK 6**
6.5% formaldehyde confirmed in Brazilian Blowout Solution sample submitted to Oregon OSHA from CROET (obtained from salon).

**WEEK 10**
CROET posts first alert.

**WEEK 11**
Newer “Formaldehyde free” Brazilian Blowout Acai Solution confirmed at 10% formaldehyde.

**WEEK 12**
OHSU and Oregon OSHA issue press release.

**WEEK 13**
Health Canada issues alert; Oregon OSHA advises caution.

**WEEK 14**
Oregon OSHA and CROET issue report; Oregon OSHA issues Hazard Alert regarding formaldehyde (methylene glycol).

**WEEK 16**
Oregon OSHA issues Hazard Alert regarding formaldehyde.

**WEEK 22**
American Chemistry Council issues position; Health Canada issues advisory; California and Washington OSHA's issue alerts.

**WEEK 23**
Brazilian Blowout sues Oregon OSHA and OHSU.

**WEEK 31**
Oregon OSHA issues updated statement to dispel media rumors.

**WEEK 36**
Cosmetic Ingredient Review Board reaffirms 0.2% formaldehyde limits; Brazilian Blowout drops lawsuit against Oregon OSHA and OHSU; California Public Health issues Q&A document; AIHA releases podcast interviewing Oregon OSHA Administrator.

**WEEK 40**
California issues memo of inspection and assigns court date; Federal OSHA releases Hazard Alert, Environmental Working Group issues report.