



NEWS RELEASE

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Employers to celebrate Safety Break for Oregon May 13

Employee involvement key to workplace safety

(Salem) — Employers across Oregon will be celebrating workplace safety and health with award programs, barbecues, and other special events during the seventh-annual Safety Break for Oregon on May 13, 2009.

Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) coordinates the one-day event, designed to raise awareness and promote the value of workplace safety and health in preventing injuries and illnesses. The voluntary event – which occurs on the second Wednesday in May – is designed to be flexible to meet an employer's safety and health program needs.

“My hope is for businesses to use Safety Break for Oregon to celebrate their safety and health achievements,” said Michael Wood, Oregon OSHA administrator. “It’s also a great time to talk with employees about ways to create safer workplaces.”

A Safety Break celebration is also planned on the Capitol steps in Salem at noon on May 13, 2009. The event will feature remarks from Wood, Oregon legislators and labor representatives.

The theme for this year's event “Working Hard at Playing it Safe,” encourages employee involvement and management cooperation. Employees who work together on safety and health concerns can result in fewer injuries and reduced workers' compensation costs for employers.

Companies planning to participate are encouraged to sign up online. For ideas on hosting an event, to download graphics or for more information, go the Safety Break for Oregon link on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org/subjects/safetybreak.html.

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Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer & Business Services, enforces the state's workplace safety and health rules and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers. For more information, go to www.orosha.org.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, go to www.dcbs.oregon.gov.