
OR-OSHA, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405

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For more information:
Kevin Weeks, Public Information Officer, 503-947-7428
kevin.s.weeks@state.or.us

Healthcare Ergonomics conference comes to Portland in July

The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) is proud to play a part in presenting an innovative, world-class Healthcare Ergonomics conference scheduled for July 26-28 at the Doubletree Hotel Portland Lloyd Center.

The purpose of the conference is to share contemporary, real-world solutions to reduce the number of health care providers experiencing workplace injuries. According to Workers' Compensation Division data for 2002, over 1,500 health care professionals in Oregon received serious injuries on the job that year, 68 percent of those from sprains, strains and muscle tears. Injury prevention is crucial to Oregon's healthcare sector.

"Healthcare facilities throughout the world experience similar ergonomics issues such as manual patient handling," says Lynda Enos, MS, RN and Chair of the Oregon Coalition for Healthcare Ergonomics. "One of the goals of the conference is for participants and speakers to share common problems and common solutions. We want participants to learn that they do not have to reinvent the wheel but can adapt successes from health care facilities in the United States and other countries. Participants will learn how people in their shoes have successfully addressed ergonomics issues within their work environments and work cultures."

Presenters from Canada, the United Kingdom, and other European nations have been invited to participate in the 2004 Healthcare Ergonomics conference.

"It is a great honor for Oregon to be the site of this innovative healthcare conference," says Peter De Luca, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "Our state continues to be on the leading edge of creating workplace safety and health solutions and sharing what we know. People look to Oregon for what is working when it comes to workplace safety and health."

Registration fees for the conference are \$225 for the Tuesday and Wednesday conference sessions. Attend any single day, including the pre-conference workshops on Monday, for \$125. Attend a half-day of the Monday pre-conference session for \$75. All registration fees include lunch on the day of attendance.

The conference is presented by the Oregon State Association of Occupational Health Nurses and the Oregon Coalition for Healthcare Ergonomics, a partnership which includes Associated Oregon Industries, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals

Local 5017, Oregon Health Care Association, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon OSHA, SAIF Corporation and the University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center.

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Registration materials for the conference are available in the Conferences section of the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org/conferences. To register for the conference on-line, go to www.b-there.com/breg/hcergo. You may call the Oregon OSHA conferences section at (503) 378-3272 to register or find out additional information.

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