



NEWS **RELEASE**

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Hampton Lumber Tillamook mill recognized for commitment to safety and health

(Tillamook) The Department of Consumer and Business services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) today announced that the Hampton Lumber mill in Tillamook has joined the Oregon OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

SHARP is a recognition program that provides an incentive and road map for Oregon employers to work with their employees to find and correct hazards, to develop and implement effective safety-and-health programs, to continuously improve, and become self-sufficient in managing occupation safety and health issues. Currently, 105 employers in Oregon participate in the safety and health recognition program.

Hampton Lumber in Tillamook has maintained a three-year average of workplace injuries and illnesses that is 40 percent below the statewide industry average for lumber mills, while reducing the number of serious injuries occurring in the mill by 62 percent since 2000. The Hampton Tillamook division employs 200 people, creating dimension-cut lumber for use in construction and retail home-improvement markets.

“Continuous improvement in safety and health benefits everyone,” says Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. “Workers come home safe to their families, productivity improves and business costs from accidents go down. Participating in the SHARP program helps employers see those benefits right away.”

Membership in SHARP does not restrict Oregon OSHA regulatory enforcement. Employees retain all workplace safety and health rights contained in the Oregon Safe Employment Act. Oregon Employers who have been in business for more than one year are eligible to apply for SHARP regardless of size or type of business.

Oregon OSHA is committed to partnering with employers and workers to keep Oregon's injury rates low, and workers' compensation costs under control. One of the best things an employer can do to prevent injuries is to properly train employees. Oregon OSHA offers free training, free safety and health consultations, and education and training materials from the OR-OSHA Resource Center.

Employers can keep their employees and workplaces safe through a commitment to training, education and elimination of hazards. More information and resources for workplace safety and health are available on Oregon OSHA's Web site, www.orosha.org

For additional information about the SHARP program, contact Mark Hurliman with Oregon OSHA at (503) 947-7437.

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