



NEWS **RELEASE**

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Covanta Marion recognized for commitment to safety and health

(Brooks) The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) today announced that Covanta Marion, operator of the Marion County Solid Waste-to-Energy facility in Brooks, 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 occupational safety-and-health issues. Currently, 105 employers in Oregon participate in the safety-and-health recognition program.

Covanta Marion has maintained a three-year average of workplace injuries and illnesses that is 40 percent below the statewide industry average. Covanta Marion employs 50 people at the Marion County Solid Waste-to-Energy facility, which processes 550 tons of solid waste each day. The facility burns solid waste to drive a steam turbine, which generates electrical power that is sold to Portland General Electric.

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.

Keep your 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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