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## Oregon OSHA to host roofing symposium

*Portland workshop promotes safety to reduce accidents*

(Salem) — The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) is partnering with the Association of Roofing Contractors to host a workshop designed to promote safe workplace practices and reduce accidents in the roofing industry.

Oregon OSHA and the Association of Roofing Contractors will host the free event on May 7, 2008. The symposium, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Northwest College of Construction in Portland, will focus on the hazards of the roofing industry. Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA, will also speak at the event.

Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer & Business Services, will provide training on how to integrate safety into a business plan to reduce accidents. According to workers' compensation claims, nearly 200 injuries are reported a year in Oregon's roofing industry. Improper fall protection continues to be the number one Oregon OSHA citation, with nearly \$630,000 in penalties assessed in 2006.

Jim Fisher, owner of Jim Fisher Roofing and Construction in Sherwood, says Oregon OSHA's educational opportunities can make a difference. Over the last few years, he has noticed more contractors taking a proactive approach to safety. Fisher says he continues to work on changing the culture in his industry.

"Peer pressure will force some of the other roofing companies to take safety more seriously but the consumer has to help," Fisher said. "They can't always go with the cheapest contractor and not ask why. We spend a huge amount of money, as in thousands, on safety to protect our employees."

OSHA regulations require that roofing contractors be trained on the following issues:

- Use of appropriate safety equipment (eye and hearing protection, safety harnesses, lanyards, associated personal fall protection)
- Proper ladder use
- Guarding or covering any floor openings or holes they could fall or trip into
- Use of other fall protection systems

"Part of our job is to provide businesses with the educational tools to keep workers safe," said Michael Wood, Oregon OSHA administrator. "People like Jim Fisher are changing the industry culture, and we want to support that change."

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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](http://www.orosha.org).

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).