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Sutherlin company recognized for safety achievement

Wastewater manufacturer joins SHARP

(Salem) – Oregon OSHA welcomes Orenco Systems®, Inc. as the latest employer in the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). A presentation is scheduled for June 29, 2009, at the company’s Sutherlin headquarters.

SHARP provides an incentive for Oregon employers to work with their employees to find and correct hazards, develop and implement effective safety and health programs, and continuously improve. The ultimate goal of SHARP is to encourage employers to become self-sufficient in managing workplace safety and health issues. Currently, 69 employer locations in Oregon participate in SHARP, in addition to 84 facilities that have graduated from the program.

Orenco Systems, Inc. designs and manufactures leading-edge equipment for decentralized wastewater systems. The company’s products have been installed all over the world, but are primarily sold in North America, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of Europe.

Founded in 1981, Orenco employs 200 people, with most based from the 26-acre headquarters in Sutherlin. Employees work in production, shipping, tooling, facilities, maintenance, systems operation, research and development, sales, engineering, government relations, and information technology.

“Working to become a SHARP employer has raised everyone’s awareness of the need to work safely all the time,” said Ken Makinson, Orenco’s safety and environmental program manager. “There is no doubt in my mind that this has contributed greatly to a decline in the frequency and severity of accidents over the past three years.”

Participation in SHARP doesn’t eliminate regulatory enforcement, although SHARP participants do receive a limited exemption from programmed inspections. Employees retain all workplace safety and health rights contained in the Oregon Safe Employment Act. Oregon employers that have been in business for more than one year are eligible to apply for SHARP regardless of size or type of business.

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Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer and 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.