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Correctional facility recognized for safety achievement

Lakeview minimum security prison joins SHARP

(Salem) – Oregon OSHA will welcome Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview this month as the newest employer in the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). A ceremony is planned on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010, at 8 a.m. at the facility’s administration building.

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, 72 employer locations in Oregon participate in SHARP, in addition to 89 facilities that have graduated from the program.

Employing 102 workers, Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) is a 400-bed minimum-security facility, which opened in September 2005. All inmates housed at WCCF are scheduled for release within four years. Programs and work assignments are designed to facilitate successful re-entry into Oregon communities. The facility includes areas for inmate housing, work and education programs, health services, food services, religious services, a physical plant, warehouse and storage, vehicle maintenance, a laundry facility, recreational activities, administration, and various other functions.

“The SHARP program allowed us to put our safety procedures under the microscope,” said Rick Angelozzi, superintendent at WCCF. “Our commitment to safety has always been a priority, but SHARP allowed us to bring it into greater focus.”

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.dcb.org.