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Employers to celebrate Safety Break for Oregon May 12 *Employee involvement key to workplace safety*

(Salem) — Employers across Oregon are encouraged to celebrate workplace safety and health with award programs, trainings and other special events during the eighth-annual Safety Break for Oregon on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) coordinates the one-day event, designed to raise awareness and promote the value of workplace safety and health in preventing injuries and illnesses. The voluntary event, which occurs on the second Wednesday in May, is designed to be flexible to meet an employer's safety and health program needs.

"My hope is that businesses across Oregon will get involved with Safety Break to celebrate their safety and health achievements, but also to focus attention on problems that aren't solved yet," said Michael Wood, Oregon OSHA administrator. "It's a great time to talk about hazards, host a training event, or promote the value of safety in the workplace."

The theme for this year's event "Shine a Light on Safety," encourages employees and management to work together on safety and health concerns. The result of this cooperation can lead to fewer injuries and reduced workers' compensation costs for employers.

Companies planning to participate are encouraged to sign up online. For ideas on hosting an event, to download graphics, or for more information, go the Safety Break for Oregon Web site at www.orosha.org/subjects/safetybreak.html.

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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.