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Bend business recognized for safety program *Bend Surgery Center joins SHARP*

(Salem) – Oregon OSHA welcomes the Bend Surgery Center LLP as the latest employer in the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

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, more than 70 employer locations in Oregon participate in SHARP, in addition to more than 90 facilities that have graduated from the program. Of the current participants, 10 are in the health care field.

With a staff of close to 100, the Bend Surgery Center performs outpatient surgeries and procedures that allow patients to return home the same day.

“The SHARP program has helped elevate our culture of safety to the highest level,” said Neal Maerki, RN and administrator at the center. “It provides the framework to ensure we cover all necessary areas required to provide a safe environment for our staff and patients. Our employees embraced the idea of going through the process to become a SHARP facility.”

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.