



A publication of the  
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association  
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[www.oraggregate.com](http://www.oraggregate.com)

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## *Oregon Independent Aggregate Association*

# *Newsletter*

**April 2023**

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On the West Coast this year we have been blessed with generally cooler and wetter weather over the winter. However, eventually summer will still arrive and with the warmer weather comes seasonal safety hazards; fire, dust, and maybe most dangerous and unassuming, heat stress. This has been brought to my attention today due to forecasted temperatures over 90 degrees (in the area I work) for the first time this year. Before this week it is hard to remember the last 70 degree day.

Being from southern Oregon and working in the forest industry, fire is a well-known threat to our lives and livelihood. Water trucks have sat winterized for the last few months and will need pulled out, given routine maintenance, and brought back out on the job for aggregate processing and fire suppression. Ensuring your fire truck starts, the pump has enough pressure and is equipped with necessary fire tools, fire hose, and fittings is of the utmost importance. Local and State fire protection agencies (Southern Oregon, Douglas, Coos, Western Lane, Eastern Lane, Oregon Department of Forestry, etc.) will complete courtesy inspections of your fire equipment. (See the attached pdf for Oregon fire season requirements for industrial operations or link at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/fire-season-requirements-for-industrial-operations.pdf> )

Today, with the increased temperatures, we had dust blowing at one of our mill facilities and quarries. Wasn't there just snow on the ground last week? Maintaining dust control is important for the health of our employees and for maintaining a good rapport with our neighbors. Measures should be taken to reduce exposure to dust and more particularly silica. (See the attached pdf for Oregon fire season requirements for industrial operations or link at <https://www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline/construction> ) As you know MSHA continues to work on their new standards for silica exposure.

Heat stress is something we all experience. As temperatures, humidity, and physical activity increases, so do the dangers of heat stress. Heat fatigue and cramps can progress to heat exhaustion, then to heat collapse and potentially to heat stroke. Knowing the symptoms and remedies of heat-related illnesses are extremely important for the health and safety of you and your coworkers. Acclimating yourself to temperatures over a period of one to two weeks and staying properly hydrated helps your body regulate temperature. If you notice yourself or someone else succumbing to the ill effects of heat, then stop physical activity immediately, find shade, a cool drink, and work on cooling down. (See the attached pdf or links at <https://www.msha.gov/safety-and-health/safety-and-health-materials/heat-stress> <https://arlweb.msha.gov/s&hinfo/heatstress/heatstress.htm> )

Stay safe and start preparing yourself for summer, it is just around the corner.

Erwin Hackett  
Director

## **Newsletter and Training Notification email address updates**

These past few years have brought many changes to some of our member companies. If you have had a change in personnel or added new personnel that you wish to receive this newsletter and information regarding our annual training please contact our secretary Kellie Ramar @ [memberreply@oraggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oraggregate.com)



Graduations are fast approaching. Don't forget to spread the word to your family and employees about our scholarship. Forms will be available in May for the school year starting September 2023.



## **Fire Safety refresher as we gear up for a busy summer.**

*Information provided by MSHA's EFSMS website.*

### **Fire Extinguishers**

- Fire extinguishers must be inspected every month and you must record the inspection.
- Know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher in your work area.
- Be sure fire extinguishers are type ABC. Readily accessible, and securely mounted on mobile equipment, if required.

### **Fire Safety**

- Keep electrical rooms and storage areas clear of clutter and debris.
- Never spray water on an electrical fire or a flammable liquid fire such as mineral spirits or grease. It will cause the fire to splatter or could lead to electrocution. Note what type of extinguisher you should use.
- Keep welding areas free of flammables and do not attempt to cut or weld if gloves or clothing has grease, oil or solvents on them.

### **Office Safety**

- Good Housekeeping applies to office areas as well as production areas.
- Be alert to hazards such as file cabinets left open or opening to many drawers at once creating a tipping hazard.
- Do not overload electrical receptacles. Use approved surge protectors.
- Be aware of tripping hazards! Remove delivered parcels from in front of doorways and place them out of the way.

## Attention OIAA member contacts

Our CPA prefers to email membership renewal invoices. Some of them are bouncing back. Please update the contact for your company that should be receiving these invoices.

Is there someone in your company that you would like to receive this newsletter? Please send information to [memberreply@oregonaggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oregonaggregate.com)

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Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 10 AM  
KPD office conference room in Springfield, Oregon

[memberreply@oraggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oraggregate.com).