



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

March 2025

As the seasons change and production starts to pick up with the coming months, OIAA held its annual Part 46 Training sessions in both Albany and Roseburg on March 10th & 11th. Approximately 130 miners were present and participated in the refresher course that was presented by Adele Abrams Law Office. Adele crushed it (pun very much intended) discussing the ongoing safety considerations and the ever-evolving political seasons of the industry. We discussed the Respirable Crystalline Silica and Respiratory Protection rule(s) again and how it will affect operations day-to-day business as well as the intensity of the medical surveillance/industrial hygiene perspective.

Personally, the biggest take away was the number of surface mine safety issues and fatality alerts that were produced in 2024. In past years, beyond the basics of safety, when Adele reviewed fatal grams, it seemed most of them were on operations where I had no personal experience and knowledge (underground mines, large surface mining operations, etc.) However, this year, there were more incidents in 2024 that made me reflect on the everyday complacency that occurs and how it could affect me or my coworkers in my own job. To play into this reflection, attached is a Mine Fatality article from MSHA, dated on March 5th, 2025. A mine in Illinois experienced a death related to a fly rock injury. According to the article the miner was assisting the blaster with detonation when the injury occurred. Established best practices for blasting apply to this incident. They are the following:

1. Remove all unnecessary personnel from the blast zone and wait 15 seconds after the blast for any fly rock to settle to the ground.
2. When considering the following: geological components, surface topography, and face geometry, the stemming should be adjusted to maintain adequate burden depth.
3. Adjust the explosive powder factor accordingly.
4. Only utilize approved blasting methods.

To actively avoid fatal injuries of this manner, every effort should be made to not become content with the minimal amount of safety. Go the extra distance to get out of the blast area and

use common sense. The only objective is to go home in the same condition you left home in...NON-NEGOTIABLE. As a blaster named Craig once told me, "Blasting is not a spectator sport."

<https://www.msha.gov/data-reports/fatality-reports/2025/march-5-2025-fatality/fatality-alert-0>

Melissa Bronson
OIAA Secretary/Treasurer

Another successful Part 46 training. We had 7 member companies and 58 attendees at the Albany class and 9 member companies and 1 non-member company and 65 attendees at the Roseburg class. Thanks to the Board of Director members that helped with check-in.



Albany class photos courtesy of Erick Staley



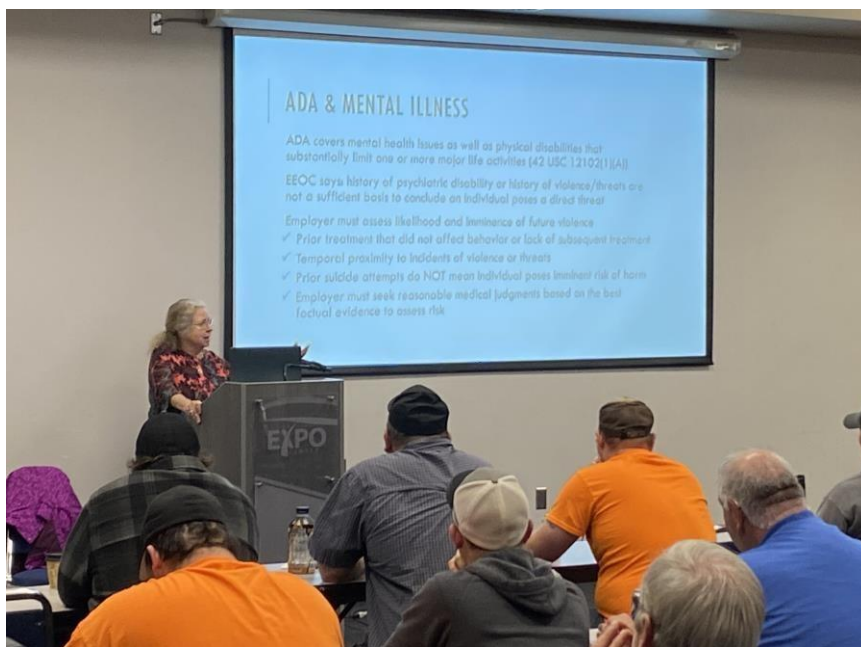
Roseburg class photos courtesy of Melissa Bronson

Adele Abrams closes her firm after 25 years but will continue to provide our annual MSHA training.

In April 2025, long time OIAA safety professional, trainer and attorney Adele Abrams announced that she closed her firm after 25 years and has joined the occupational health and safety practice at Littler Mendelson, a national firm focusing on employment and workplace law.

www.littler.com

Adele will be senior counsel, heading their MSHA practice and will continue to handle OSHA litigation nationwide and provide safety and health training and consultation services. She will be based out of their Washington DC and Los Angeles offices. For more information, contact Adele at 301-613-7498 or safetylawyer@gmail.com. She looks forward to continuing her relationship with OIAA and providing annual refresher training in 2026!



Adele at our 2023 Part 46 training class.

Attention!!

We welcome and encourage all of our members to become more involved with our association. You are welcome to attend our meetings anytime. Please contact any of our board members for information on how you can become more involved, ways we can improve our association and information regarding our upcoming meetings.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ORAGGREGATE.COM

We are always looking for information to print in the newsletter. If you have a specific article, safety information , or any other information you think will be helpful and of interest to our members, please submit them to memberreply@oraggregate.com

We are currently looking to add to our Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining us please contact any of the board of directors or come to the next meeting to discuss the possibility.

Current Board of Directors

Erwin Hackett – Chairman
Bill Leavens – Vice chairman
Melissa Bronson – Secretary-Treasurer
Erick Staley
Bill Ruchti
Andrew Siegmund

***The next meeting is scheduled for May 7th 2025 10AM
at the office of Siegmund Excavation & Construction,
Silverton Oregon***