



A publication of the  
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association  
PO Box 571  
Stayton, Oregon 97383  
[www.oraaggregate.com](http://www.oraaggregate.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Erick Staley – Chairman  
Jerry Davidson- Vice Chairman  
Kellie Ramar - Secretary  
Mary McNatt – Treasurer  
Dan Kauffman  
Bill Ruchi  
Melissa Mullins  
Andrew Siegmund  
Jim Jeffries

## *Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter*

**May 2020**

---

### **Chairman's Message**

Talking with miners around the Northwest, it sounds like many aggregate mines have continued to operate at similar or slightly lowered capacity during the COVID pandemic. Obviously this is not sustainable if other industries continue to be severely affected. While the outlook is uncertain, eventually, we will need to resume economic and interpersonal activity for people to sustain their way of life, and for aggregate mining to continue to provide incomes for families.

At least in the short term, though, it is encouraging that aggregate mines have been fairly active. Whatever you are building – houses and commercial developments during the good times, or roadway improvements when streets are less busy – you still need aggregates. Admittedly, many of the public projects currently underway were planned during the good times. But when you consider how fundamental construction aggregates are to our built society, it makes sense for aggregate mining to have some resiliency.

There is an opportunity here. If someone is surprised by your “good luck” at still being busy in mining, point out it is proof of how important the industry is. We all know mining is taken for granted. Many people are distanced from where raw materials come from, how they get to where they are needed, and how important they are. I encourage each of you to take some time to advocate for your industry and share your perspective.

Take care everyone, and let's hope we all can get back to business soon.

Be safe,

**Erick Staley**  
**Chairman**

## Safety Topics:



### Keeping Workers Safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Every project is different and unique, and what is feasible and appropriate for any one job site will depend on its unique characteristics. That said, the prevention tips that companies may want to implement, include the following: General Safety Policies and Rules

- Any employee/contractor/visitor showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to leave the jobsite and return home.
- Safety meetings will be by telephone, if possible. If safety meetings are conducted in-person, attendance will be collected verbally and the foreman/superintendent will sign-in each attendee. Attendance will not be tracked through passed-around sign-in sheets or mobile devices. During any in-person safety meetings, avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people and participants must remain at least six (6) feet apart.
- Employees must avoid physical contact with others and shall direct others (employees/contractors/visitors) to increase personal space to at least six (6) feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, only necessary employees should enter the trailers and all employees should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- All in-person meetings will be limited. To the extent possible, meetings will be conducted by telephone.
- Employees will be encouraged to stagger breaks and lunches, if practicable, to reduce the size of any group at any one time to less than ten (10) people.
- Due to the nature of its work, access to running water for hand washing may be impracticable. In these situations, the Company will provide, if available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers and/or wipes.
- Employees should limit the use of co-workers' tools and equipment. To the extent tools must be shared, the Company will provide alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, consult manufacturing recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Employees are encouraged to limit the need for N95 respirator use, by using engineering and work practice controls to minimize dust. Such controls include the use of water delivery and dust collection systems, as well as limiting exposure time.
- The Company will divide crews/staff into two (2) groups where possible so that projects can continue working effectively in the event that one of the divided teams is required to quarantine.
- As part of the division of crews/staff, the Company will divide employees into dedicated shifts, at which point employees will remain with their dedicated shifts for the remainder of the project. If there is a legitimate reason for an employee to change shifts, the Company will have sole discretion in making that alteration.
- Employees are encouraged to minimize ride-sharing. While in vehicles, employees must ensure adequate ventilation.
- If practicable, each employee should use/drive the same truck or piece of equipment every shift.
- In lieu of using a common source of drinking water, such as a cooler, employees should use individual water bottles.

- During this work, employees must sanitize the work areas upon arrival, throughout the workday, and immediately before departure. The Company will provide alcohol-based wipes for this purpose.
- Employees should ask other occupants to keep a personal distance of six (6) feet at a minimum. Workers should wash or sanitize hands immediately before starting and after completing the work. Job Site Visitors
- The number of visitors to the job site, including the trailer or office, will be limited to only those necessary for the work.
- All visitors will be screened in advance of arriving on the job site. If the visitor answers “yes” to any of the following questions, he/she should not be permitted to access the jobsite: Have you been confirmed positive for COVID-19? Are you currently experiencing, or recently experienced, any acute respiratory illness symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath? Have you been in close contact with any persons who has been confirmed positive for COVID-19? Have you been in close contact with any persons who have traveled and are also exhibiting acute respiratory illness symptoms?
- Site deliveries will be permitted but should be properly coordinated in line with the employer’s minimal contact and cleaning protocols. Delivery personnel should remain in their vehicles if at all possible.
- In addition to regular PPE for workers engaged in various tasks (fall protection, hard hats, hearing protection), the Company will also provide: Gloves: Gloves should be worn at all times while on-site. The type of glove worn should be appropriate to the task. If gloves are not typically required for the task, then any type of glove is acceptable, including latex gloves. Employees should avoid sharing gloves. Eye protection: Eye protection should be worn at all times while on-site. NOTE: The CDC is currently not recommending that healthy people wear N95 respirators to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Nevertheless, employees should wear N95 respirators if required by the work and if available.
- Due to the current shortage of N95 respirators, the following Work Practice Controls should be followed: Keep dust down by using engineering and work practice controls, specifically through the use of water delivery and dust collection systems. Limit exposure time to the extent practicable. Isolate workers in dusty operations by using a containment structure or distance to limit dust exposure to those employees who are conducting the tasks, thereby protecting nonessential workers and bystanders.
- Institute a rigorous housekeeping program to reduce dust levels on the jobsite

### **Stay Safe Stay Healthy**

## **Mobile Equipment at Surface Mines**

Haul trucks and other large surface mining vehicles are capable of destroying smaller vehicles that cannot be seen by the operator. Traffic controls, training, and avoiding distractions are key to enhancing safety. Collision warning and avoidance systems can also help.

### **KEY SAFETY PRACTICES**

- Communicate and verify with all equipment operators any planned movements and location upon entering or exiting a work area.

- Ensure all persons are trained to recognize workplace hazards. Specifically, train equipment operators on the limited visibility and blind spot areas that are inherent to the operation of large equipment. Do not drive or park smaller vehicles in mobile equipment's potential path of movement.
- Instruct all operators on the importance of using flags or strobe lights on the cabs of their vehicles to make haulage truck operators aware of their location. Flags must be high enough to be in the view of equipment operators.
- Install and maintain collision avoidance/warning technologies on mobile equipment.

**If anyone has any information they would like to share in next month's newsletter regarding how your business is doing thru these difficult times please let me know. Please send your email to me at [memberreply@oraggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oraggregate.com)**

***2020 Board of Directors***

Erick Staley – Chairman  
Jerry Davidson – Vice Chairman  
Mary McNatt- Treasurer  
Kellie Ramar – Secretary  
Melissa Mullins  
Bill Ruchti  
Andrew Siegmund  
Jim Jeffries  
Dan Kauffman

Due to the COVID-19 current stay at home orders, we are working on the date and time of the next meeting.

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

**Stay Safe, Stay Healthy**