



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

May 2023

Chairman's Message

WOTUS Update – On May 25th, the US Supreme Court nixed the nexus. (Refer to our January 2023 newsletter for some background, and this article: <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/supreme-court-issues-decision-in-8454252/#:~:text=Under%20the%20%E2%80%9Csignificant%20nexus%E2%80%9D%20test,administrations%20adopting%20different%20regulatory%20approaches.>) The Court majority ruled that the authority under the Clean Water Act includes “streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes” and wetlands with a “continuous surface connection”, but the nexus standard was “implausible” for regulating wetlands. The Court thus undermined the final rule just issued by the Biden administration in December 2022. So, it seems the feds will need to prepare *another* final rule, this time without relying on the nexus standard, which is expected to limit the extent to which projects can be regulated by the EPA. Note that wetland development will still be regulated by local states, just not by the feds in many cases.

OIAA Scholarships – A reminder to all members: OIAA offers **two scholarships** each year to students pursuing education in a field related to construction, aggregates, or forestry including:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Construction | Forestry | Land use planning |
| Construction management | Geology | Heavy equipment repair |
| Engineering | Architecture | Welding |

Current members, employees of member companies, and their families can apply for these scholarships.

Help out an aspiring student you know and tell them to apply! The application is available on our website. www.oraggregate.com

Erick Staley
Chairman

June is National Safety Month



Common Safety Mistakes

Some of the most dangerous situations arise out of common mistakes that can be easily avoided. Listed below are some of the more common and commonly overlooked safety issues that should be prevented to help improve your safety performance.

Common Safety Mistakes:

1. **Lack of housekeeping:** It may seem simple, but a messy / dirty work area makes for an unsafe work environment. Spilled oil and obstructed walkways all result in thousands of injuries each year.
2. **Not using Lockout/Tag out on equipment needing repair:** Thousands of injuries are caused each year by the failure to lockout or tag out equipment and machinery needing repair. Often times someone knew ahead of time that the equipment was not functioning properly. It is imperative to disable the equipment as soon as someone knows it is not functioning properly. This will ensure the equipment does not cause injury or an unsafe work environment.
3. **Improper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** It is a common, yet incorrect, practice to wear hard hats backwards, or to put hearing protection in improperly. A walk around the shop might find face shields that are scratched to the point where visibility is poor. All of these are examples of failures in the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment. PPE is the last line of defense in protecting the employee. Therefore, the improper use of PPE, or failure to maintain and replace defective PPE, increases the likelihood of an injury.
4. **Not having a process or plan:** Most workplace injuries occur when work being done is not part of a normal process. It is important to have a work plan for non-process work. Sometimes such a plan is called a Task Specific Safety Plan. No matter how it is done, planning work and asking "What if ...?" questions will help identify hazards and implement controls to prevent injuries.
5. **Failure to communicate:** One of the easiest things to prevent unsafe conditions is to discuss what hazards or unsafe acts have been noticed. Communicating the hazards and failures is an essential element of protecting ourselves and our coworkers from hazards that are potentially dangerous.



Mark your calendars

Our 2024 training dates have been confirmed

Albany Fairgrounds – March 12, 2024

Douglas County Fairgrounds – March 13, 2024

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



Graduations are fast approaching. Don't forget to spread the word to your family and employees about our scholarship. Forms are now available on our website.

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

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**Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27th 10 AM
KPD office conference room in Springfield, Oregon**

memberreply@oraggregate.com.