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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association *Newsletter*

October 2025

Staying Vigilant: Preventing Complacency as the Seasons Change

As autumn approaches, it brings with it a shift in weather patterns and worksite conditions that can challenge even the most experienced operators. The fall season is often associated with a rise in complacency regarding safety; an understandable but preventable tendency as routines settle in and environmental factors begin to change.

Operators and employees alike must remain diligent in following established best practices to ensure safety across all aspects of daily operations. The goal is simple yet critical: every employee should return home in the same condition as when they arrived.

Changing Seasons, Changing Risks

Across both public and private sectors, organizations frequently see an increase in *Near Miss Reports* during transitional seasons such as fall. These incidents often stem from a combination of adverse conditions, momentary lapses in judgment, or sheer misfortune.

A recent *Fatality Alert* published by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences of such conditions. According to the alert, a contract hauler was dumping a load of aggregate on a stockpile when the pile gave way, causing the truck to overturn. Tragically, the driver later succumbed to injuries sustained in the incident.

This marks the 22nd mining-related fatality recorded in 2025—a statistic that underscores the ongoing importance of vigilance and proactive safety culture within our industry.

Reinforcing Best Practices

In ever-changing surface mine environments, safety protocols must be more than procedural; they must be habitual. A few critical best practices include:

- **Maintain stable stockpile slopes** and avoid oversteepening.
- **Never undercut stockpiles** during loading operations.
- **Dump only from stable, secure locations** with proper visibility.
- **Conduct workplace examinations** before and throughout each shift.
- **Establish and maintain stable berms** wherever equipment overturning is a potential risk.

These examples are not exhaustive, but they highlight the ongoing attention required to manage dynamic and potentially hazardous work conditions effectively.

A Call to Collective Responsibility

Safety is not a seasonal priority; it is a daily commitment. As professionals, we must continue to foster a culture of accountability, resist the temptation toward complacency, and remain watchful for one another in every task we perform.

The conditions in our workplaces will always evolve, but our responsibility to return home safely at the end of each day is non-negotiable.

Wishing everyone a safe and mindful transition into the fall and winter months.

*Article provided by
Melissa Bronson
Secretary/Treasurer*

MINE FATALITY – A contract haul truck driver was injured while dumping a load of material at the top of a stockpile. The ground under the truck failed causing the truck to overturn onto its cab. The driver died later from his injuries.



BEST PRACTICES

- Construct substantial berms, bumper blocks, safety hooks, or similar impeding devices at dumping locations where there is a hazard of over travel or overturning.
- Conduct workplace and ground condition examinations before beginning work in an area.
- Always dump material from a stable and safe location. If examinations indicate the ground conditions are not reliable, dump loads at a safe distance and push the material over the edge using a bulldozer.
- Never load material from the toe of a stockpile that is below an active dump point. This typically leads to a slope that is unstable and too steep.
- Maintain stockpile slopes no steeper than the angle of repose.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is the 22nd fatality reported in 2025, and the ninth classified as “Powered Haulage.”

Information provided by MSHA website.



**Training dates for 2026 – Albany March 9, 2026 and Roseburg March 10, 2026.
Watch future newsletters for any updated information.**

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

With two of our founding member directors retiring from our board, 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

Next meeting will be held January 14th at 10 AM
KPD Office Conference room – Springfield, Or