

OREGON INDEPENDENT AGGREGATE ASSOCIATION

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April 2026 Newsletter

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OIAA Annual Scholarship Opportunity

The Oregon Independent Aggregate Association (OIAA) is pleased to offer an annual \$2,500 scholarship for students pursuing careers related to the construction, aggregate, and forestry industries. Eligible applicants include current OIAA members, employees of member companies, and their family members enrolled in or planning to attend a university, community college, private college, or trade school. Eligible fields of study include construction management, engineering, geology, forestry, heavy equipment repair, welding, architecture, and land use planning.

Members are encouraged to share this opportunity with employees and families who have eligible students who may benefit. The application emphasizes a personal statement outlining career goals, interest in the industry, and financial need. Scholarship recipients are recognized by OIAA and invited to accept the award in person at a Board Meeting. The application deadline is **September 1, 2026**. Application materials are included at the end of this Newsletter.

Let's get the word out!



MSHA Reports 2025 All-Injury Rates at an ALL-TIME LOW!

MSHA recently reported that injury rates for the mining industry fell to an all-time low last year (<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/msha/msha20260428>). It is noteworthy these historic lows occurred with a metal/nonmetal mining workforce that is larger than ever.

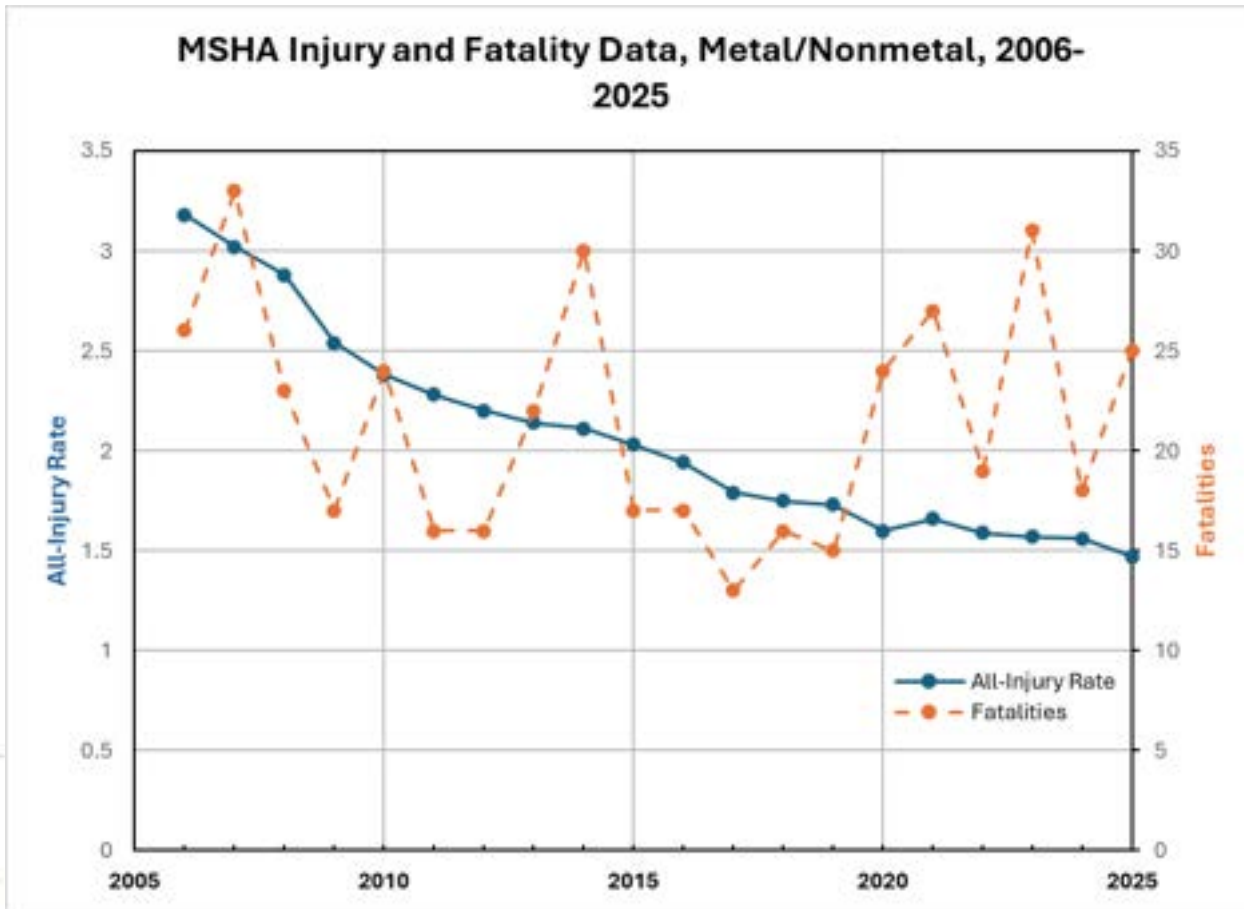
MSHA publishes its injury statistics at the “MSHA at a Glance” website, where you can view annual records of employment, injuries, fatalities, citations, and fines from 2006 to 2025 (<https://www.msha.gov/msha-glance>). While fatalities were higher in 2025 (at 25) than in other years (a low of 13 in 2017), there has been a strong downward trend for at least 20 years for overall injuries.

Being the nerdy scientist that I am, I scraped the data and plotted it for easy viewing. The data and chart below are for metal/nonmetal mines:

MSHA Safety and Health Data, Metal and Nonmetal Mines, 2006-2025

(source: <https://www.msha.gov/msha-glance>)

| Year | Number of Mines | Number of Miners | Fatalities | Fatal Injury Rate | All Injury Rate |
|------|-----------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2006 | | 241,600 | 26 | 0.0121 | 3.18 |
| 2007 | 12,849 | 256,448 | 33 | 0.0149 | 3.02 |
| 2008 | 12,785 | 259,439 | 23 | 0.0107 | 2.88 |
| 2009 | 12,559 | 222,288 | 17 | 0.0098 | 2.54 |
| 2010 | 12,346 | 225,977 | 24 | 0.0134 | 2.38 |
| 2011 | 12,211 | 238,462 | 16 | 0.0083 | 2.28 |
| 2012 | 12,233 | 250,714 | 16 | 0.0079 | 2.2 |
| 2013 | 12,106 | 251,483 | 22 | 0.0108 | 2.14 |
| 2014 | 11,995 | 250,817 | 30 | 0.0147 | 2.11 |
| 2015 | 11,869 | 247,518 | 17 | 0.0084 | 2.03 |
| 2016 | 11,825 | 237,443 | 17 | 0.0088 | 1.94 |
| 2017 | 11,902 | 238,723 | 13 | 0.0066 | 1.79 |
| 2018 | 11,891 | 249,482 | 16 | 0.0077 | 1.75 |
| 2019 | 11,862 | 250,527 | 15 | 0.0072 | 1.73 |
| 2020 | 11,742 | 233,699 | 24 | 0.0124 | 1.6 |
| 2021 | 11,639 | 240,274 | 27 | 0.0136 | 1.66 |
| 2022 | 11,615 | 248,684 | 19 | 0.009 | 1.59 |
| 2023 | 11,658 | 256,154 | 31 | 0.0143 | 1.57 |
| 2024 | 11,769 | 261,114 | 18 | 0.0082 | 1.56 |
| 2025 | 11,689 | 266,217 | 25 | 0.0114 | 1.47 |



Looking at the injury rates in graphic format, the industry should be proud of its sustained trend in fewer injuries each year. We certainly need to take safety seriously and actively participate in safe practices, training, and planning at mine sites. But this analysis shows that everyone’s effort has a positive, measurable result.

In fact, the strong safety culture in mining has resulted in fewer injuries than in most other industries. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports non-fatal injuries and illnesses for a variety of private industries. A graph of the rate of injury per 100 workers can be viewed at their website (<https://www.bls.gov/charts/injuries-and-illnesses/number-and-rate-of-nonfatal-work-injuries-and-illnesses-by-industry.htm>). Most industries have higher rates of injury than mines including retail trade, real estate, and education. Only some strictly office-based industries experience lower rates of injury. So again, well done and keep it up!

Erick Staley
Board Member / Past Chair

MSHA Part 46 Training:

Albany:

- 📍 **Location:** Linn County Fair & Expo
- 🕒 **Date & Time:** Monday, March 15th, 2027 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Roseburg:

- 📍 **Location:** Douglas County Fairgrounds
- 🕒 **Date & Time:** Tuesday, March 16th, 2027 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Please feel free to share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested in attending—members and non-members alike. The MSHA Part 46 Training form will be sent out in the fall of 2026. Not unlike this year, it can be completed electronically using Adobe Acrobat or printed/fill it out by hand. Questions? Email Melissa at melissa.bronson@kniferiver.com

General Information:



We truly value and encourage active participation from all our members. You're invited to attend our meetings anytime. If you'd like to get more involved, share ideas for improving our association, or learn about upcoming meetings, please feel free to reach out to any of our board members.

Join the Board!

With two of our founding directors retiring, we're opening the door for fresh energy and new voices—and we'd love to have you be part of it. We're actively looking to add members to our Board of Directors, and this is a great time to get involved. If you're curious, interested, or even just thinking about it, reach out to any board member or join us at our next meeting to explore the opportunity. We'd be excited to welcome you to the conversation.

Next Meeting:

- 📍 **Location:** IMA (KPD) Office – Conference Room, Springfield, OR
- 🕒 **Date & Time:** TBD

Article Content:

We're always looking for great content to feature in our newsletter. If you have an article, safety tip, or any information you believe would benefit or interest our members, we'd love to include it. Please submit your materials to: melissa.bronson@kniferiver.com or erwinh@rfpco.com

Newsletter Changes:

We're excited to continue building community within the Oregon Independent Aggregate Association, and one great way to do that is through our Member Spotlight feature. We invite current members to submit a short spotlight showcasing their business—whether that's a quick Q&A, a fun fact about your operation, highlights of unique projects, or non-sensitive photos of your quarry, equipment, or crew. Including a brief blurb about your company helps us share your story while giving you a little extra marketing visibility. If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming edition, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit our website at www.oraggregate.com

Member Spotlight:

YOUR COMPANY HERE!

This month we don't have a Member Spotlight—apparently everyone is too humble to brag. So, here's your friendly reminder: send us a short company bio and a photo. We'd love to introduce you to the rest of the group and, yes, give you a completely shameless plug.



Scholarship Application

(Office Use Only) Application Number _____

1) Personal Information: (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Applicant's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Alternate phone number (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

2) Academic Information: (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name of High School: _____

Year of High School Graduation: _____

Current University, College or Trade School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____

Overall GPA: _____ Major: _____ Minor: _____

When do you expect to graduate? _____

3) Extracurricular and or Community Information:

List honors, awards, prizes or recognition you have received: _____

List school and or group activities (sports, clubs, committees, offices) that you have participated in: _____

List and describe your hobbies and interests: _____

4) Work Experience (include on a separate sheet of paper if needed)

What work experience have you had? _____

Would you be interested in working with a construction, aggregate projects or forestry company? YES, _____ NO _____ PART-TIME _____ SUMMER _____

5) Remember to attach the following:

_____ A transcript of grades through the last grading period prior to the date of application.

_____ A letter of recommendation from a teacher, employer or other relevant acquaintance.

_____ Your Personal Statement as required in the Scholarship Guidelines.

I certify that the information on this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your application to the attention of the application committee

Oregon Independent Aggregate Association

P.O. Box 571

Stayton, Oregon 97383

Application Deadline: September 1, 2026