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Oregon OSHA offers new safety cultural awareness workshop

Education is key in preventing injuries

(Salem) – Oregon’s Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA) is offering “Safety Training and Your Multicultural Workforce,” a new workshop that educates workers and employers on practical ways of overcoming language and cultural barriers. It will also provide an understanding of how to form an effective training team to achieve safe work practices.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Hispanics are among the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. workforce. The proportion of on the job deaths among foreign-born Hispanic workers has also increased over time.

Daily requests from business owners and the increasing number of Hispanics in the workforce led to the class inception, said Tomás Schwabe, a senior safety and health instructor with Oregon OSHA. He said one of the concepts of the four-hour class will deal with social hierarchy. In American culture, the hierarchy is relatively flat, but it’s very steep in Latino and Asian cultures.

“In the U.S., you are often asked your thoughts from management,” Schwabe explained. “When that happens to a Hispanic worker, it’s total culture shock. You would be feeling really strange, weird. The workers may not provide their opinion when asked because it’s culturally inappropriate for workers to provide that kind of information to those in a higher position.”

The classes are being offered at the following times:

Tuesday, August 12

8 a.m. to noon

Portland Community College – Capital Center, Room 1539

18624 NW Walker Road

Beaverton

Wednesday, September 17

8 a.m. to noon

Oregon OSHA Eugene Field Office – Conference Room

1140 Willagillespie

Eugene

Tuesday, October 7

8 a.m. to noon

Rogue Community College Table Rock Campus
7800 Pacific Ave
White City

Wednesday, November 19

8 a.m. to noon

Blue Mountain Community College
2411 NW Carden
Pendleton

To register for the free workshops, fax your request on company letterhead to (503) 947-7462 or register on the Oregon OSHA Web site, www.orosha.org, under “Education.”

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About Oregon OSHA:

Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer & Business Services, enforces the state’s workplace safety and health rules and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers. For more information, go to www.orosha.org.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, go to www.dcbs.oregon.gov.