

Oregon OSHA, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 430, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

For immediate release:
September 9, 2008

Contact information:
Melanie Mesaros, Public Information Officer
503-947-7428
melanie.l.mesaros@state.or.us

White City mill joins safety recognition program *Boise Cascade LLC achieves SHARP certification*

Oregon OSHA will welcome Boise Cascade LLC, White City Engineered Wood Products mill to the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) this month.

SHARP provides an incentive for Oregon employers to work with their employees to find and correct hazards, develop and implement effective safety and health programs, and continuously improve. The ultimate goal of SHARP is to encourage employers to become self-sufficient in managing workplace safety and health issues. Currently, 138 employer locations in Oregon participate in SHARP, including 74 employers that have graduated from the program.

The Boise Cascade mill in White City began operations in 1990, manufacturing engineered wood products consisting of laminated veneer lumber and wood I-joists. Its primary market is providing framing materials for the housing industry. Employing 89 workers, the mill began working toward SHARP less than a year ago, after Boise Cascade LLC Western Oregon Region signed a SHARP Partnership agreement with Oregon OSHA.

“The SHARP process has provided us with a great incentive to improve our safety culture,” said Larry James, the plant’s safety committee chairman. “As we continue to strive for our vision of an incident-free workplace, this is another tool to reinforce how we feel about safety.”

The Boise Cascade western Oregon region’s Medford plywood mill is a second-year SHARP site and four other western Oregon locations are pursuing SHARP certification through the partnership agreement.

Participation in SHARP doesn’t eliminate regulatory enforcement, although SHARP participants do receive a limited exemption from programmed inspections. Employees retain all workplace safety and health rights contained in the Oregon Safe Employment Act. Oregon employers that have been in business for more than one year are eligible to apply for SHARP regardless of size or type of business.

###

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, visit www.dcsb.oregon.gov.