

What are the biggest remaining workplace safety hazards today? Well, unfortunately, the challenges we face are largely the same challenges we were facing 30 or 40 years ago. One of the most frequent sources of injuries and fatalities is falls. I think probably the biggest challenge is getting to the point where safety rules aren't seen as a nuisance or a pain, where people treat safety provisions as naturally as most drivers now treat putting on a seatbelt or buckling your children into a car seat. I'm old enough that I remember when neither of those was the norm. And I've said for a number of years that one of the challenges we face in Oregon is that 30 years of success has created a certain complacency in our workplaces. We start to say, "We've got this dialed in." We've picked a lot of the low hanging fruit. But we haven't picked it all. Every time somebody dies because they get caught up in the machine, or they're in a confined space, or they're in a trench, or they fall from a roof or from a scaffold, those things just shouldn't be happening. And they're still the primary source of problems.

Do you think Oregon OSHA could be doing a better job protecting workers? And if the speaker of the Oregon House, the Senate president, and the

governor came to you looking for recommendations, what would your wish list be? I mean, of course we could do a better job. If I were going to have a wish list, I mean, you know, I'm a regulator with staff: Give me four times as many staff! The other wish would be that we solve our retention issues. That's a problem nationally. We've historically operated on a model where we figured it took four to five years to reach sort of journey-level status as a compliance officer. With the modern expectation of employees, we don't get them for four to five years. So we need to figure out ways to keep them. We also need to figure out ways to equip them more rapidly, and not sort of depend on an organizational depth of experience. **So you wish there was a way you could make people stay working there longer.** Our benefits are more than competitive. Even our scaled down retirement system is good, our insurance is very solid. If there's one thing that would make us better, it would be if we could hang on to good people longer.

Are you guys hiring right now? We are hiring almost all the time.

This interview has been edited for space reasons. For the full version, visit nwlaborpress.org/wood

Ladder Safety and How It Affects Everyone

THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES



+137
ladder injuries every day*



113
deaths caused by falls each year*



6-10 ft.
The most common ladder falls happen between 6 and 10 feet off the ground

WHETHER YOU'RE USING A LADDER AT HOME OR AT WORK, THESE NUMBERS AFFECT YOU.

- 2** most common ladder accidents include**:
1. Missing the last step when climbing down
 2. Overreaching

**Occupational Ladder Fall Injuries - United States, 2011, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
***AJ Ladder Safety Training and Citation Report - United States, 2018, American Ladder Institute



THOMAS, COON, NEWTON & FROST

PORTLAND LAW FIRM SINCE 1980

Workers' Compensation

Construction Injuries

Death Claims

Personal Injury & Product Liability

Medical Malpractice

Social Security Disability

Mesothelioma

www.tcnf.legal

503-228-5222

Straight answers.
No cost for consultation.

Injured workers may have a "third party case" if someone other than their employer was negligent for damages not available in the workers' compensation claim.



Raymond Thomas



James Coon



Cynthia Newton



Chris Frost



Sydney Montanaro



Scott Sell



Chris Thomas

820 SW Second Ave., Suite 200, Portland, OR 97204



Reiko Mia Williams

FOR PCC BOARD ZONE 7

Experienced. Thoughtful.
A Leader Focused on Student Success.

<https://ReikoForPCC.com>

DIGITAL BRANCH IS ALWAYS OPEN!

MOBILE BANKING/REMOTE DEPOSIT

Deposit checks, transfer funds, see account balances and more from your mobile device.

ONLINE BANKING & BILL PAY

Manage your finances online 24-hours a day securely and confidentially.

CONVENIENT ATM LOCATIONS

Access to nearly 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide As a member of a CO-OP Network.

Need help? Chat online with us at IronworkersCU.org/chat



BANK ANYWHERE, ANYTIME WITH IRONWORKERS CU

DIGITAL BRANCH SERVICES AVAILABLE 24/7/365



IronworkersCU.org • 877-769-4766

