

Agricultural safety workshops scheduled

SAIF Corporation's 10th annual agricultural safety seminar series for Oregon employers will be held in Pendleton on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at The Red Lion Hotel and in Boardman on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at The Port of Morrow.

The free four-hour seminar is designed primarily for owners, operators, supervisors and foremen, but anyone working in the agricultural industry is welcome to attend. Small employers attending the seminar will meet the instructional requirement for House Bill 3019 that exempts small agricultural establishments from random OSHA inspections. SAIF has also applied for two hours of pesticide re-certification credits from the Oregon Department of Agriculture for these sessions.

SAIF is pleased to have Kirk Lloyd, president of Risk Management Resources, Inc., join SAIF staff once again this year to talk about safety and compliance for farm pesticide storage facilities, as well as how to conduct effective safety inspections. As an independent consultant with deep experience in agriculture, Lloyd specializes in the unique needs and challenges of the agricultural business community.

In addition, longtime SAIF agricultural safety seminar presenter Linda Meuleveld, RN, COHN-S, CCM, DABF will discuss how employees can protect some of their most valuable assets: their backs. As an

occupational health trainer with SAIF Corporation, Meuleveld provides expert instruction on reducing the risks from lifting that are so common in agricultural operations.

Topics include:
-Injury Trends and Statistics for Oregon Agricultural Workers.

-Safety and Compliance in Farm Pesticide Storage Facilities. Learn how to stay in compliance with OSHA farm pesticide storage facility rules, and keep your employees safe and injury-free.

-Safety Inspections. Learn who needs to do safety inspections, what to look for, who should be involved, and what OSHA expects from a safety inspections.

-Back Protection-Defending Your Safety Zone. Back injuries continue to be one of the most common, and costly types of injuries for agricultural operations. Learn how to reduce the risk and protect your back.

Registration is at 9 a.m., and the seminars are from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Lunch is provided. Early registration is required, as seating is limited. Participants will receive a registration confirmation letter with the address and facility location approximately one week prior to the seminar. For more information, contact the SAIF Groups Division at (800) 285-8525 or visit SAIF's Web site at www.saif.com.

Prevent black bear encounters by taking precautionary measures

In light of a recent situation in the Tumalo area north of Bend where a black bear had to be euthanized after it became accustomed to eating garbage and pet food, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife urges people to take precautionary measures to prevent situations that lead to unfortunate outcomes between bears and people.

"Black bears are opportunistic feeders, with a natural diet consisting mainly of insects, carrion, plants, fruits and berries," said Colin Gillin, ODFW wildlife veterinarian. "They also are known to kill and eat deer fawns and elk calves in the spring when these young animals are most vulnerable." Bears may be active at any time of the day or night, but most often are seen during morning and twilight hours.

"Bears generally are not dangerous to humans," said Gillin, who before joining ODFW served at one time as Wyoming's grizzly bear biologist, "but they will forage in trash cans and eat pet food when those food sources are available. When bears are fed by people, they may become aggressive and dangerous. Bears and any other wild animals have very unpredictable behavior."

While ODFW's response to bear sightings and complaints is based on the circumstances of each situation, ODFW generally does not relocate bears that have become habituated to humans.

"Research and experience throughout Oregon have shown that relocated bears will continue to seek human food in their new location or move to an area where human food is available," said Gillin. "Bears that become habituated and conditioned to human foods become human safety concerns and leave wildlife managers with little choice but to humanely euthanize the animals." Approximately 250 bears are killed each year statewide because they cause damage to agriculture, livestock or threaten human safety.

The following precautions can be taken by individuals to avoid bear/human conflicts:

-Do not feed black bears or wildlife, either by hand or by leaving out food items such as salt blocks or pet food.

-In bear country, do not leave garbage outside, even if it is in a trash can, unless it is a bear-proof container. Bears easily can tip over trash cans to reach the contents inside.

-Do not leave pet food outside where it can attract black bears onto porches, into kennels or into other areas where pets are kept.

-Remove birdfeeders at night so bears are not attracted by the smell or refrain from feeding birds if bears are known to reside near your home.

-Keep grills and other outdoor cooking items clean. Landowners who live in bear country need to be especially careful not to attract bears and habituate them to humans. Individuals who see a cub or yearling that appears to be underfed should call ODFW rather than attempt to "help" the bear by providing food, noted Gillin.

OSU Extension announces upcoming pesticide applicators training

Do you need to obtain a pesticide applicators license? Do you need re-certification credits to maintain your current pesticide applicators license? Did you know that for a private pesticide applicators license you need 16 credit hours over the five-year life of your certification?

A Core training for pesticide applicators will be held Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the Isobel Edwards Hall at the Fairgrounds in Fossil. The training, presented by Sandy Macnab and Brian Tuck, OSU County Extension faculty, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with an opportunity for testing in the afternoon from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Registration fee for the training will be \$5. Please RSVP to the Wheeler County Extension Office at (541) 763-4115 for the training and testing.

Testing will be available beginning at 1:30 p.m. If you plan to take a test please let us know which one you need to take. Kelly Smith from Central Oregon Community College will be administering the testing. Testing fees will be \$15 for each test you would like to take. In addition, you must present a picture ID in order to take a test. Your Social Security Number is also required when filling out application forms and answer sheets so please come prepared.

A second attendance at a Core Training, within the five-year recertification period, will provide four hours under the "Other" category.

Below is more detailed information about private pesticide applicator licensing (obtained from ODA's "A Guide to Pesticide-Related Licensing in Oregon").

A private pesticide applicator license is required of those who use or

supervise the use of "restricted-use" pesticides on land in agricultural production that they or their employer owns, lease, or rent. This includes farm land, ranch land, forest land, nurseries and orchards. No license is needed if only "general use" (non-restricted) pesticides are used. To qualify for this license, an individual must receive a passing score on the Private Pesticide Applicator Examination. Once the applicant passes, he/she becomes "certified" (eligible to obtain a license) and may submit a license application and fees to Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to obtain a private pesticide applicator license. Both the license and the certification period expire on Dec. 31 of the fifth year of certification. (Just passing the required examinations alone does NOT mean an individual is licensed, you must complete the licensing process by submitting an application and the proper fees to ODA.)

Recertification is the process of renewing pesticide certification. This may be accomplished by either of two methods:

-Accumulating the required number of credit hours during the current certification period by attending training programs accredited by the ODA.

-Retaking and passing all required examinations.

Private applicators must accumulate a total of 16 credit hours during their certification period. Four of these hours must be "Core" training and 12 can be "other" ODA-accredited training. No more than eight credit hours (including Core) may be accumulated in any one calendar year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31). Credit hour accumulation may begin the day after the licensee is certified.

Master Gardener training prepares volunteers

Do you spend the winter months reading seed catalogs and dreaming of spring? Volunteering to become an OSU Master Gardener may help beat those winter gardening blues according to Mary Corp, OSU Extension Agent.

Master Gardeners are people like you, she suggests, interested in learning more about the art and science of growing and caring for plants for the garden, the landscape and the home. In exchange for classroom instruction, Master Gardeners then help OSU Extension agents extend garden information to the local communities throughout Umatilla County. Classes are taught by OSU

extension agents, specialists and local experts will prepare volunteers with a well-rounded knowledge of plants. The program offers a basic, practical course in plant science and horticulture.

Classes include: cultural methods of growing gardens, lawns, fruit trees and landscape plants; pest identification and control methods; soil management and plant nutrition; and diagnosis of plant problems.

The classes, which begin Jan. 11, are held Tuesdays and Thursdays for a total of eight weeks. Classes go from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at BMCC in Pendleton. For an application packet and additional information, contact OSU Extension Service at (541) 278-5403. Applications are due by Friday, Dec. 3. Application materials are also available on-line at extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla.

Extension Office, (541) 763-4115, or Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Division, (503) 986-4635 or go to the ODA website at oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/index.shtml.

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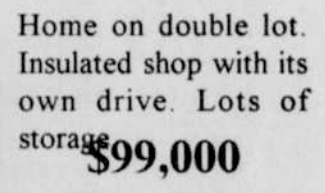
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