

2018 OSHSPA REPORT



Grassroots Worker Protection

State plan activities of the
Occupational Safety and Health
State Plan Association



Significant Case

For years, Bright Wood Corporation, one of the world's largest manufacturers of wood components and millwork, faced an ongoing problem with a particularly nasty type of injury: amputations.

The company – which employs 183 workers in Redmond and 800 in Madras – received many inspections from Oregon OSHA compliance officers who investigated the incidents and issued citations. But the inspections typically focused only on the injured worker and the machine that caused the injury. Bright Wood corrected the hazards, but workers were still exposed to similar hazards on hundreds of other machines.

Then, on Nov. 20, 2017, Oregon OSHA safety compliance officer Jarrodd Bohn arrived unannounced at the Redmond facility to conduct the first comprehensive inspection of the plant in 20 years. Bohn had already investigated four incidents involving amputations at Bright Wood earlier in 2017, so he had a good idea of the kinds of hazards he would find.

Bohn enlisted the help of Oregon OSHA safety compliance officer Phil Jensen and, together, the two compliance officers inspected 18 buildings, five of which housed production areas ranging in size from 5,000 to 48,000 square feet, and interviewed dozens of employees. Over seven days, Bohn and Jensen identified 195 potential injury sources, including:

- 122 machine guarding hazards
- 35 fall hazards
- 23 electrical hazards



Unguarded incline belt and shaft that powers the sanding machine (shaft rotates at 6,000 rpm).



Vinyl wrap machine with 200 exposed in-running nip points.

Bright Wood CEO Dallas Stovall said, “It quickly became apparent that we had an enormous task at hand and that we needed a plan to start making modifications as quickly as possible.”

“After the inspection, we recognized that eliminating all the hazards was not going to get done in a week, month, or months,” Stovall said. “But we wanted to quickly draw everyone’s attention to the potential hazards we were working around.”

The result was Bright Wood’s Green Dot Project Employees painted a lime green dot on every hazard in the Redmond and the Madras facilities to make them easy to identify and correct. In the six months after the Oregon OSHA comprehensive inspection, the company had prepared more than 2,400 work orders to correct safety hazards.

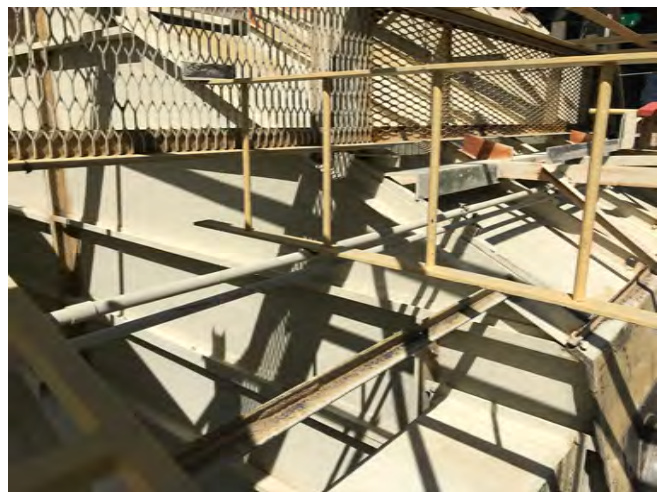
Moving forward, the company focused on machine guarding hazards that could be fixed without fabrication and, with help from the safety committee, was able to quickly correct 50 percent of the existing hazards. As a result, the safety committee members also became better at identifying machine guarding hazards. And managers were surprised to learn that the safer machine guards significantly improved sawdust collection.

Commenting on the impact of the comprehensive inspection and the Green Dot Project, Redmond Maintenance Manager, Sean Harvey said, “It has been a huge learning curve for everyone ... [but] we are going to be a pretty darn safe company when this is all done.”

Compliance officer Bohn added: “As Dallas Stovall became aware of the magnitude of the changes the company needed to make, he did not argue or file for an extension. Instead, he organized, prioritized, and addressed the hazards the company needed to correct without hesitation. The level of urgency and quality of Bright Wood’s abatement effort were unmatched by any other inspection that I have conducted.”



An unguarded saw blade.



The ladder was not centered on the catwalk; workers were exposed to falls of about 40 feet.

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