

# City of Portland Safety Recognition Day

Beginning in 1995, the City Council has convened annually to publically acknowledge front line workers and Bureau safety efforts. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Certificates of Recognition were presented to individual employees and groups who had been nominated to receive awards for achievements in the safety and health arena during 2012.

In City Council chambers, Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioners presented awards to recipients within their respective bureaus, while reading the nominee's accomplishments. (A portion of Commissioner Saltzman's portfolio was handled by Commissioner Fritz).



Mayor Hales opened the ceremony with remarks addressing all assembled participants with a message emphasizing the importance of a robust safety culture. While acknowledging the strides that have been made to reduce workplace accidents, injuries and illnesses, he emphasized the need for continued diligence to ensure the on-going success of the City's safety programs.

## **Office of Management and Finance Bureau of Technology Services**

**Outstanding Safety Committee Chairperson Award:**  
Bob Ochs was recognized for his many years of service. Among other achievements he helped establish bureau policies and procedures to meet OSHA guidelines, and implemented a bureau-wide training program. His dedication to building a safer workplace for all coworkers has always shown through.

**Bob Ochs receives his  
award from Mayor Hales**



## **Office of Management and Finance Facilities Safety Champion Award:**

Bob Tessmer (Wendy Gibson accepted on his behalf) was honored for his outstanding commitment to safety. He implemented several important changes to improve bicycle safety at the Portland Building, improved access at the Kirby Garage for safer maintenance, and installed a new safer ladder at the Kelly Street Building when the exiting ladder was deemed unsafe.

**Wendy Gibson accepts for Bob Tessmer  
from Mayor Hales**





**Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Maintenance Division  
Safety Champion Award:**

Russ Kreis (Richard Herington accepted on his behalf) was chosen for his leadership with the Commercial Drivers License in-house training program, where he demonstrated his commitment to safety through his on-going example and his sharing of safe driving tips with students and trainers.

**Richard Herington accepts  
the award from Mayor Hales  
on behalf of Russ Kreis**

**Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Maintenance Division  
Safety Champion Award:**

Ray Gawthorne was honored for his efforts to make the Snow & Ice Training program the best that it can be. He encourages and supports team members, works to provide training resources and ensures that set-up and take-down are timely and coordinated. Ray has been a strong champion for safety for all involved.

**Ray Gawthorne  
accepts his award  
from Mayor Hales**



**Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Safety Committee Award:**

This committee conducts an aggressive program to eliminate safety concerns through the Track-It system, with an impressive record of mitigating hazards. They developed a driver skills checklist and established a process for mentoring new operators.

**Members of the Transportation Safety  
Committee accepts their award from Mayor  
Hales**





### **Portland Bureau of Transportation Maintenance Operations**

#### **Loss Reduction Award:**

This award was presented for the Maintenance Operations achievement of a significant reduction of losses during the Fiscal Year 2012 compared to an average of the previous three fiscal years.

Losses for Fleet Liability were reduced 14%  
Losses for General Liability were reduced 19%

**Suzanne Kahn accepts the award  
on behalf of Maintenance Operations  
from Mayor Hales**

### **Portland Parks and Recreation Safety Champion Award:**

John Reed was honored for his years of service above and beyond his normal job duties overseeing the Pesticide Certification program for the bureau. His certification training program has become highly respected and utilized by other agencies in the area. John manages hazardous materials and is a phenomenal resource for employees in the field when they need guidance for situations involving chemicals.

**John Reed accepts  
his award from  
Commissioner Fish**



### **Portland Parks and Recreation Safety Solutions Award:**

Zack Daniek (Barb Aguon accepted on his behalf) received this award for his efforts to provide ergonomic flexibility for the Mt Tabor Yard office staff. He worked with Harris Worksystems to identify a way to recycle workstations then in storage to create easily adjustable sit-to-stand workstations. Employees now have the option to sit or stand throughout their work day.

**Barb Aguon accepts the Safety Solutions award  
on behalf of Zack Daniek  
from Commissioner Fish.**





### **Portland Parks and Recreation Safety Solutions Award:**

Scott Vanderpool, Dennis Phillips and Mike Grosso worked together to implement a back saving idea at the Beverly Cleary Fountain at Grant Park. This involved redesigning the access doors to the underground vault where the fountain controls are located. This improvement will benefit any worker who needs to perform service or maintenance on the systems there.

**Mike Grosso accepts  
the award for the team  
from Commissioner Fish**



### **Portland Parks and Recreation Life Saver Award:**

Peter Anthony was honored for the actions he took to save a man who had flipped his kayak on the Willamette River. He found the man weak and shivering; water had gotten inside his improperly zipped suit. Peter recognized the signs of hypothermia and immediately moved the man to a nearby building with heat to warm him up and called 911. His quick thinking likely saved the man's life.

**Peter Anthony accepts  
the Life Saver award  
from Commissioner Fish**



### **Portland Parks and Recreation Operations Safety Committee Award:**

This group continually advocates for a healthy and positive safety culture across the bureau. They facilitated planning for the bureau-wide Spring Safety Training & Wellness Festival, updated the charter, improved inspection programs as well as other activities to elevate attention to safety and health in the workplace and home.

**Committee members accept  
the award from Commissioner Fish**



### **Portland Parks and Recreation Recreation Safety Committee Award:**

While the primary concern for this committee is Occupational Health and Safety, they also advocate for the safety of the general public in all park facilities. They assisted in planning safety training for the Recreation staff; one example is the Severe Allergic Reaction and Medication Administration training. They met the challenge during the summer months of working with seasonal hires to ensure the smooth and safe running of the summer programs.

**Barb Aguon accepts  
the committee award  
from Commissioner Fish**

### **Portland Parks and Recreation Partners in Prevention Award**

Josh Darling (pictured) of Parks and Recreation, Mark Schmidt of Portland Fire and Rescue, and Toni Sexton and Suzanne Hannam of the Bureau of Emergency Communications were honored for their work coordinating information and mapping among the three bureaus to enhance the emergency medical response capability in Forest Park.

**Josh Darling accepts the  
Partnership in Prevention Award for  
the partners from Commissioner Fish**



### **Portland Parks and Recreation Loss Reduction Award:**

This award was presented for the achievement of a significant reduction of losses during the Fiscal Year 2012 compared to an average of the previous three fiscal years.

Losses for General Liability were reduced 25%

**Parks Director Mike Abbaté  
accepts the award on behalf  
of the bureau from Commissioner Fish**





**Portland Water Bureau  
Safety Champion Award:**

Aron Anderson was recognized for his commitment to safety. He reviews his jobs thoroughly to address any safety concerns for his crew prior to beginning work, and ensures that crew members are outfitted with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment at all times.

**Aron Anderson receives his award from  
Commissioner Novick**

**Portland Water Bureau  
Bull Run Safety Committee Award:**

This group implemented improvements in the watershed that resulted in establishing landing zones to address emergency response of medical assistance requiring air response, GPS review and purchases to ensure employees can be tracked and accessed while in remote areas, and addressing visual hazards at Water Works Road for drivers entering and exiting the watershed.

**Eric Fullan and Chris Wanner accept the  
award on behalf of the committee  
from Commissioner Novick**



**Portland Water Bureau  
Portland Building Safety Committee Award:**

This committee completed several significant projects during 2012. They planned and completed the "Take a Break for Safety" event which provided training and safety awareness to all employees in the building on a variety of issues. Inspection and correction of safety hazards noted throughout the building were managed, and discussion and quizzes on the location of emergency equipment and evacuation procedures were conducted to educate personnel.

**Robin Hagedorn and Gary Egan  
receive the award on behalf of  
the committee from Commissioner Novick**





### **Portland Water Bureau Interstate Safety Committee Award:**

This committee implemented a stretching and massage program at Interstate for Office and Field crews to improve flexibility and reduce injuries, with plans to increase the number of sessions and gain greater benefits. They successfully prepared and completed a Safety Fair which included employee training in drug/alcohol awareness and HR 2.02 training as well as Personal Protective Equipment awareness and demonstrations.

**Stan Bleszinski, Nicki Villebrun-Nelson, Jonathan Syphard and James Wisner accept the award on behalf of the committee from Commissioner Novick**

### **Portland Water Bureau Safety Solutions Award:**

Bryan Robinson was honored for his work to address two significant ladder safety hazards. Bryan evaluated the nature of the work being done and the specific ladder configurations needed by the workers. He then designed two very different ladders which met safety standards and provided safe and easy access for employees.

**Bryan Robinson receives his award from Commissioner Novick**



### **Portland Water Bureau Outstanding Safety Committee Chairperson Award:**

Bruce Bulick (not shown) was recognized for his willingness to actively address safety concerns and to follow through and ensure corrective actions are taken. Bruce used his own skills as a carpenter to institute improvements addressing two significant safety concerns. At one vault there were issues with space around the ladder landing which he resolved by relocating a cabinet. He also repaired deteriorating railing inside Dam 2 when he learned that existing conditions posed a safety problem.

**Chris Wanner accepting the award for Bruce Bulick from Commissioner Novick**





**Portland Water Bureau  
Loss Reduction Award:**

This award was presented for the achievement of a significant reduction of losses during the Fiscal Year 2012 compared to an average of the previous three fiscal years.

Losses for Fleet Liability were reduced 15%  
Losses for Workers' Compensation reduced 30%

**Director David Shaff accepts the award for the bureau from  
Commissioner Novick**

**Bureau of Environmental Services  
Construction and Design  
Safety Committee Award:**

This committee continues to exceed compliance requirements, and brings a bureau wide focus on efforts to improve the Environmental Services construction safety management system.

**Committee members  
accept their award from  
Commissioner Saltzman**



**Bureau of Environmental Services  
Safety Solutions Award:**

John Petty (not pictured) coordinated emergency landing locations at the Columbia Blvd. Wastewater Treatment Plant with Life Flight. The plant is often blocked by train traffic, and with construction activity going on the potential for serious injury has increased. John helped organize primary and secondary landing areas and put up wind socks to alert Life Flight. He presented this proactive safety solution at the Safety Committee Conference in 2012, which has spurred interest among other City facilities.

**Paul Schuberg receives the award  
on behalf of John Petty  
from Commissioner Saltzman**





### **Bureau of Environmental Services Outstanding Safety Committee Chairperson Award:**

Josh Nault is Chairperson for the Field Construction Safety Committee. Due to his participation on multiple safety committees he is a key person in the bureau's safety culture. He ensures that monthly meetings are held, and that quarterly safety site walks are performed on active construction sites. Josh worked to establish safety protocols for the staff working from the Guilds Lake Office, and champions the committee's bureau-wide efforts to promote safety awareness.

**Josh Nault receives his award from Commissioner Saltzman**

### **Bureau of Environmental Services Safety Champion Award:**

Paul Schuberg was nominated by City Risk for this award. He approaches his job with the best interests of the City overall in mind, frequently presenting inter-bureau training, participating on City-wide workgroups and actively seeking ways to improve or refine the City's safety efforts and culture.

Paul has championed the concept of total worker health, and made presentations and written many newsletter articles to foster city and industry awareness on the need for action around this issue. He consistently goes above and beyond in carrying out his duties.

**Paul Schuberg receives the award from  
Commissioner Saltzman**



### **Bureau of Environmental Services Safety Champion Award:**

Dave Kliewer was recognized for setting an example for upper level management as an active member of the safety committee. He has supported many safety and health initiatives. Dave encourages efforts of subordinate managers to promote a physically fit work place and view fitness as a measure of job performance for physically demanding jobs. He led efforts to replace manhole covers with an ergonomic two piece design to reduce back injuries, and consistently champions workplace safety.

**Dave Kliewer accepts his award  
from Commissioner Fritz**





**Bureau of Environmental Services  
Safety Champion Award:**

Blair Bean was honored for the way he has met many challenging construction projects this past year that have required safety planning above and beyond the normal safety exposures.

Blair was key in establishing safety protocol for the Sellwood pump station outfall repair, the MLK emergency pile removal and for the "lock-out tag-out" and confined space entries for the Ankeny Pump Station construction.

**Blair Bean receives his award  
from Commissioner Fritz**

**Bureau of Environmental Services  
Incident Analysis Safety Committee Award:**

This committee is committed to a continuing program to review all construction incident report forms in detail. This practice helps them focus on the root cause of safety concerns. This information is then used to evaluate and recommend tools for safety improvements for the future, thereby improving the safety culture for the bureau.

Bryan Davis, Josh Nault and Veronica Ferguson  
accept the award on behalf of the committee  
from Commissioner Fritz



**Bureau of Environmental Services  
Field Construction Safety Committee Award:**

This committee has continued a commitment to safety by making quarterly construction project site safety walks standard. This promotes a positive safety culture and ensures that the bureau's construction sites are in compliance with Environmental Services safety standards.

**Josh Nault and Nadine Meyers  
receive the award on behalf of the committee  
from Commissioner Fritz**



### **Bureau of Development Services Life Saver Award**



A customer began feeling disoriented and asked Susan Coffey for help. As she assisted the customer, Tracy Spencer realized the situation and sought Fire personnel for help. None were available, so Tracy directed Melissa Linehan to call 911 immediately.

The following week all were thanked by the customer for their assistance. The customer's condition was indeed potentially life-threatening. The prompt and professional actions of Susan, Melissa and Tracy may well have saved a customer's life.

**Melissa Linehan and Tracy Spencer (Susan Coffey not pictured) receive the award from Commissioner Fritz**

### **Bureau of Development Services Safety Champion Award**

Mike Liefeld was honored for his efforts to create an open environment for his team of 20 employees to bring forward their safety concerns, and he encourages their input on safety solutions. In 2012, as a way to encourage employees to create and maintain 72-hour emergency kits in their homes, Mike volunteered to document his own process of assembling a kit for his family. He also recruited two other Safety Committee members who began building kits at home; then wrote a series of articles for the employee newsletter. He has become a driving force in the bureau's safety and loss prevention efforts.



**Mike Liefeld receives his award from Commissioner Fritz**

### **Bureau of Development Services Safety Committee Award**



This group paired with management to study 2012 updates to National Standards for Electrical Safety. In response, revisions to policies and procedures for electrical work were drafted, new personal protective equipment was researched, and in 2013 they will begin testing new equipment.

The committee and bureau management identified a gap in staff knowledge about responding to employees and customers in physical distress. New procedures were drafted and an awareness campaign begun as well as efforts to increase awareness of the availability of taxi cab vouchers and how to use them in emergencies.

**Members of the committee accept the award from Commissioner Fritz**



**Portland Police Bureau  
Loss Reduction Award:**

This award was presented for the achievement of a significant reduction of losses during the Fiscal Year 2012 compared to an average of the previous three fiscal years.

Losses for Fleet Liability were reduced 17%

**Tina Routley accepted the award on behalf of the bureau from Commissioner Fritz**

**Bureau of Transportation – Parking Division  
Safe Driver Award**

Lynette Brown has been a Parking Enforcement Officer for over 19 years, spending a great deal of her workday driving a scooter in heavy traffic. This requires her to maneuver close to cars, watch for pedestrians, bicycles and other traffic while timing vehicles, identifying violations and enforcing parking codes. She works in a high pressure environment, never knowing when a disgruntled citizen might approach to talk about a citation. Lynette models all of the attributes of an exceptional Parking Enforcement Officer.

**Lynette Brown accepted her Safe Driver jacket from Mayor Hales**



**Bureau of Transportation – Maintenance Division  
Safe Driver Award**

Dana Whitley is the top Safe Driver of the Year at Maintenance. An Automotive Equipment Operator in the Structures Section, Dana has worked at Maintenance since 2010 and has never had an accident. He is always willing to mentor new operators on a variety of equipment. He models safe work practice on every job he is assigned, and is diligent about looking out for the safety of others.

**Dana Whitley accepted his Safe Driver jacket from Mayor Hales**





## **Parks and Recreation Safe Driver Award:**

Pamma LaCroix (Vincent Moore accepted the Safe Driver jacket on her behalf) has been with Parks as a Park Technician for 30 years. She regularly drives City vehicles many miles throughout the city, including through the parks, near playgrounds & schools. She exemplifies courteous and safe operation of City vehicles in performing her job.

**Vincent Moore accepted the Safe Driver jacket on behalf of Pamma LaCroix from Commissioner Fish**

## **Portland Water Bureau Safe Driver Award:**

Todd Torlund is and has been an Automobile Equipment Operator for the city for over 10 years. In that role, he has driven the bureau's largest vehicles on our city streets, in and out of dense intersections, industrial areas and crowded residential neighborhoods without accident or damage. He is a strong advocate for safe driving and walks the talk.

**Todd Torlund accepted the Safe Driver jacket from Commissioner Novick**



## **Portland Water Bureau Safe Driver Award:**

David Rock began his career with the Bureau of Development Services 29 years ago and currently serves as a Senior Building Inspector. During David's successful tenure, driving has been a daily part of his responsibilities. He travels to several different job sites every day and carefully plans his driving routes. He has been an exemplary City driver and a consummate professional who always provides first-rate assistance to customers and to City staff. Altogether Bureau employees average more than 500,000 driving miles per year, and David was the bureau choice for Top Safe Driver during 2012.

**David Rock accepted the Safe Driver jacket from Commissioner Saltzman**





**City Risk Management  
Kate Wood, Manager**

Kate Wood gave closing remarks, thanking the members of the Awards Committee who represent five different bureaus, who worked together to develop the criteria, review the nominations and recommend awards. She also acknowledged the efforts of the City Risk staff in putting the program together and lastly thanked the City Council for taking time out of their busy schedules to acknowledge the City's safety efforts.



Below, Mayor Charlie Hales and Water Bureau Director David Shaff chat



Attendees enjoyed mingling outside the Council Chambers (with coffee and cookies to sustain them) after the awards were presented.



Bureau of Development Services Director Paul Scarlett

Thank you to all who participated in the nomination process, the preparation of the event, and to all who participated!