

# Climate Change – Opportunities and Challenges for the OSH Professional

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Currently senior safety engineer at Daimler in Portland, Oregon

Previous private sector experience includes 10 years in semiconductor industry safety

Public sector experience includes 8 years at Oregon OSHA

Not a subject matter expert in climate science or climate policy

“Climate Change and the Safety Profession” in August 2021 edition of Professional Safety

Based on experience and observations as a working safety professional

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			Oregon OSHA
			Unprecedented heat
			Wildfire smoke
		Oregon OSHA	Still no regulations
		Increasing temperatures	Reports from semi colleagues
Semiconductor industry	Semiconductor industry	Review heat stress	Strong customer pressure
Customer audits	Customer audit shift	Program directive	Reduce GHG emissions
Regulatory focus	ISO 14001	No regulations yet	Purchase renewable energy
Late 1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s

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Significant amount of activity on climate-related hazards this year

Executive order from Oregon governor specifically references climate change

<https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/Documents/eo-energy-20-04.pdf>

Oregon OSHA temporary emergency heat stress rule issued July 8, 2021

<https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/adopted/2021/ao6-2021-letter-heatillnessprevention.pdf>

Oregon OSHA temporary emergency wildfire smoke rule issued August 3, 2021

<https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/adopted/2021/ao9-2021-letter-temp-wildfire-smoke.pdf>



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Climate change and climate hazards are driving other activities

Emergency response plan updated to include wildfire hazards

Oak grove on hill adjacent to property as a fire hazard outside our control

Balancing building cooling efforts with energy conservation needs

Building construction in 1967 when air conditioning was not needed in Portland

Sustainability as a branding strategy

 Oregon Live

Daimler will convert Portland factory to make electric trucks

Updated: Apr. 24, 2019, 4:33 p.m. | Published: Apr. 24, 2019, 11:55 a.m. ...  
Daimler's eCascadia electric truck. ... Daimler Trucks North America said...

Apr 24, 2019



 Fleet Equipment Magazine

DTNA commits to carbon-neutral vehicle production by 2025

The Portland plant will be the first vehicle manufacturing plant to achieve CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production in the global Daimler Trucks network. DTNA says it is...

Dec 15, 2020



# Climate Change – Opportunities and Challenges for the OSH Professional

Expect climate change to continue to have significant influence on the safety profession

Continued stress on employees, operations, and communities

- Heat, air quality, extreme weather events, and local livability

- Insurance expenses, loss prevention activities, and asset hardening

Continued regulatory activity despite relative inaction at US federal level

- State regulations and local building codes

Continued pressure on organizations to demonstrate action

- Increasing attention on environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures

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Look for opportunities to learn and keep informed of changes

Currently following several LinkedIn groups to monitor trends

- Marsh – risk management and insurance

- Antea Group USA – OHS and ESG consulting

- ESG Today – investment activity and announcements from major organizations

Evaluating continuing education opportunities

- Antioch University Climate Resilience Certificate for Professionals

Evaluating professional networking opportunities

- American Society of Adaptation Professionals

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In *The Organizational Resilience Handbook*, author Graham Bell describes climate change as one of several major trends “likely to produce a generally transformative change in many aspects of society at some point in the not-too-distant future, and organizations should be alive to this.” Bell encourages the continuous practice of “horizon scanning” and the need to be prepared for “massive and ongoing change which is almost universally predicted.”

Many thanks for your time

LinkedIn connections welcome

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