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For immediate release:
November 1, 1999

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OREGON BUILDING CODES DIVISION SHARES EXPERTISE WITH IDAHO

SALEM -- Oregon's Building Codes Division is sharing its successful manufactured dwelling installation and inspection program with the state of Idaho. The division is also sharing a couple of employees to teach new rules to Idaho installers and inspectors this fall.

BCD employees Al Rust and John Collins began a seven-day tour of five Idaho cities on Oct. 25 to teach methods that will replace using manufacturer manuals to conduct installations and inspections. Rust said that the standardization of manufactured dwelling installations and inspections has resulted in better installations in Oregon and a higher level of satisfaction among both customers and manufacturers.

"Idaho has adopted our program pretty much across the board," said Rust, who conducts manufactured dwelling installer and inspector training programs for BCD.

Oregon is considered a leader in manufactured housing installation. In 1996, Oregon created its *Oregon Manufactured Dwelling Standard*, which replaced the requirement to install to each manufacturer's instructions.

Rust, who worked in the manufactured dwelling industry as a quality assurance manager before becoming a trainer at BCD in 1996, was familiar with installing and inspecting manufactured dwellings to a variety of manufacturer's requirements.

"There are eleven different manufacturers selling and building in Oregon," said Rust. "Each has individual engineering and installation programs. That's eleven ways of doing it and eleven ways of inspecting it, and it can be pretty confusing. But since 1996, we've had one way for all (manufactured) homes in Oregon."

That, Rust said, has led to homes being built and installed better.

The manufactured dwelling industry and the state of Oregon have worked together to respond to consumers' concerns and improve and standardize installations and inspections. The industry pays Oregon State University Extension Service to provide an installation monitoring program that monitors 10 percent of all manufactured dwellings, gathers information, and performs training for and with BCD.

"Only 16 states have manufactured dwelling programs, and Oregon serves as a lightning rod," said Rust. "I feel other states will follow our lead."

The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, is headquartered in West Salem. For more information, call Al Rust, (503) 378-4133.

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