



NEWS RELEASE

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New OSU Coastal Housing Puts Safety First With Mass Ply Construction

OSU eases workforce housing strain with new campus housing outside Newport's tsunami zone

LYONS, Ore., Nov. 14, 2025 – Oregon State University's (OSU) rapidly expanding Hatfield Marine Science Center has experienced a critical need for workforce housing, as enrollment surged from 100 to 500 in just three years. To support the influx of students, faculty, and visiting professionals, OSU opened the [Harborton Street Housing](#) complex this fall 2025. The new facility features sustainable Mass Ply Panels (MPP) from Freres Engineered Wood, offering a safe and resilient alternative to the school's existing bunkhouses within the tsunami zone.

"The Harborton complex highlights many of Mass Ply's greatest qualities, from its structural integrity to its natural aesthetic," says Freres Wood sales engineer, Austin Basl. "It has been a pleasure collaborating with Oregon State's outstanding team, and we're proud to help construct a building that will serve their community for years."

[Freres Wood has a long, collaborative history with OSU](#), spanning multiple building and research projects. In this latest partnership, MPP forms the floors and ceilings of the three-story building, creating an efficient, durable solution for the modern design. The facility also features custom Mass Ply stairs that allow for greater spans and a floating stair concept, as well as exposed MPP beneath the exterior door canopies. Additionally, prefabricating the panels off-site helped the design builder save time and reduce costs.

"I love that Mass Ply allowed us to work faster and more efficiently," says Meysha Lovrien, the project manager for the joint-venture project between O'Brien & Company and Lucas Design Build, O'Brien Lucas Ventures. "It allowed us to work on multiple phases at the same time."

OSU hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early October to celebrate the opening of their new complex in Newport. The building helps meet the region's critical need for workplace housing with 77 studio and two-bedroom apartments for short and long-term residents. Thanks to a spacious five-acre lot, there is ample space for future expansion.

For more information about Freres Engineered Wood's Mass Ply products, visit www.frereswood.com.

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About Freres Engineered Wood Products

Freres Lumber Co., Inc., DBA [Freres Engineered Wood](#), has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in

Oregon's Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres' operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LLC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit www.frereswood.com or call 503-859-2121.