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QUICK NEWS...

MOL Safety Blitz

As part of Ontario's ongoing efforts to help reduce workplace injuries, inspectors will be "blitzing" construction sites to help eliminate specific hazards to health and safety starting in August. September will see inspectors concentrating on industrial workplace hazards that can cause workers to fall, and electrical hazards will be the focus in November. The province-wide blitz will target health and safety hazards at demolition and renovation projects. The inspections are part of the province's new four year plan – Safe at Work Ontario, [launched in June](#).

OELs updated

Ontario is implementing updated occupational exposure limits (OELs) for hazardous workplace substances and proposing further changes for 2008. OELs restrict a worker's exposure to hazardous substances on the job, such as the solvents used in the manufacture of paints and glues.

Ontario revises the OELs on a regular basis. A [public consultation](#) on changes to 2008 limits is currently underway and written submissions will be accepted until September 18, 2008. @

Final Premium Rates released

The WSIB has announced the 2009 premium rates for Schedule 1 employers. The decision to **keep the 2009 average premium rate at \$2.26 – unchanged from 2007 and 2008** – is based on careful financial analysis, and an expectation that improvements will occur in health and safety and return to work outcomes consistent with the WSIB's Road to Zero and Prevention Strategies.

The WSIB Board of Directors' final decision on the 2009 average rate comes after the WSIB sought input from stakeholders on the [WSIB Funding Framework](#) and provided information sessions on premium rates earlier this year. A revised Funding Framework was approved by the WSIB Board of Directors in April 2008.

"The Funding Framework confirms the WSIB's commitment to ensuring the long-term viability of the workplace safety and insurance system," said WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney. "We are committed to ensuring that the WSIB's financial resources are dedicated to improving the well-being of workers and employers throughout Ontario.

"Collaborative, aligned, and effective partnerships are vital to promoting prevention and better health care and return to work outcomes," continued Mahoney. "Reaching and surpassing targets set out in the WSIB's Five Year Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012, *The Road to Zero*, will ultimately result in the reduction of the unfunded liability and more stable and predictable premium rates for employers." @



Electronic forms submission for health care providers

A new service allows eligible health care providers to submit their reports to the WSIB electronically. The new eProvider Reporting service uses the same application as the existing electronic bill submission service. Health care providers can use eProvider Reporting to submit the Health Professional's Report (Form 8), Health Professional's Progress Report (Form 26) and the Functional Abilities Form (FAF).

The new service was developed by the WSIB in conjunction with Emergis, a Telus Company, to support the WSIB's ongoing commitment to improving service excellence for Ontario's injured workers, employers and health care providers.

To register for this free eService, health care providers can contact Provider Services at Emergis via e-mail: provider.registry@emergis.com or by phone at 1-866-240-7492. @



New Regional Evaluation Centres



Regional Evaluation Centres (RECs) are independent, hospital-based facilities approved by the WSIB to assess soft-tissue injuries. To improve service to injured workers and expand regional access to REC facilities, the WSIB has increased the number of RECs to 22 from 14. The REC program has also been enhanced to include additional levels of Multidisciplinary Health Care (MDHC) Assessments, which are performed by a physician specialist

and either a chiropractor or physiotherapist. RECs are also now able to provide workers with Non-Economic Loss (NEL) Musculoskeletal Assessments. These changes, along with the implementation of improved quality management measures, will help ensure that assessments conducted through RECs provide service delivery teams with the information they need for timely and appropriate case management and decision-making. @

NEL Process Enhancements

Workers who suffer permanent impairment from a work-related injury or illness, are eligible to receive a **Non-Economic Loss** (NEL) benefit to compensate them for the physical, functional, or psychological loss the impairment causes. This benefit is determined when a worker's condition has reached a point where no further improvement can be expected.

The WSIB has made improvements to the NEL program that will result in a faster process for determining the level of permanent impairment for workers without compromising the quality of the outcomes. **WSIB policies** related to the NEL Program have also been revised to reflect the changes. @



New Service Delivery Model – Fall Implementation on Track

Implementation for the first phase of the **New Service Delivery Model (NSDM)** in our Ottawa and Kingston offices launched this month.

Rob Timlin, Director of the Ottawa and Kingston offices, says he's extremely proud of the work that has gone into preparing for the transition to the Model in Ottawa and Kingston. **“Staff have been extremely supportive and have volunteered in a number of capacities to help make the implementation a success.”**

The NSDM is critical to meeting our *Road to Zero* objective for healthier and safer Ontario workplaces, where zero fatalities, injuries and illnesses are the only acceptable measures of success for all Ontarians. The Model is focused on reducing the significant financial and human costs of workplace injuries to workers and employers through better support for successful return to work and recovery.

The NSDM introduces new and redesigned jobs, better ways of working and technologies for improvements in prevention, return to work and recovery. The Model provides for a more personalized level of service – employers will see their account issues resolved with greater efficiency and consistency through streamlined activities and focused roles within the Employer Service Centre.

Excitement about the NSDM is building as staff get ready for changes in their jobs, and most importantly, in the way we work to meet the changing needs of Ontario's workers and employers.

Updates about the NSDM implementation will continue in @wsib and on the **WSIB website**. @



Did you know?

The stakeholder consultation period on three **draft occupational disease policies** has been extended to October 1, 2008.

The Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Government Agencies has asked the WSIB to attend a follow-up review on September 12, 2008. The Committee released a **report on the WSIB** in May 2007.

The WSIB's **2007 Annual Report** is now available online. @

