

Live Safe! Work Smart!

Health and safety e-news for Ontario teachers

? You Asked Us

Q: Are there any new resources coming for students with special learning needs?

A: Yes. Look for a **new** Passport to Safety test this fall. Based on the original Passport to Safety test and the *Live Safe! Work Smart! Resources for Students with Special Learning Needs*, the new test will be an important component of workplace preparation for these students. It will cover all essential aspects of workplace health and safety using basic language and images wherever possible. If you already use Passport to Safety in your classroom, look for an email from Passport to Safety announcing the new test. If you haven't taken advantage of the current **free** test, go to [Passport to Safety](#) and find out how to order tests for your students.

Q: Are there any new initiatives for young workers planned for the fall?

A: Yes. The Ministry of Labour is turning to young people and experts for help in reducing injuries and deaths on the job among youth who go directly into the workforce from school. The new [Vulnerable Workers Under 25 Action Group](#) will meet to collaboratively generate innovative and creative solutions for this hard-to-reach demographic group. Your insight, opinions and suggestions are welcome at youngworkers@mol.gov.on.ca

Tish's Tips

Have you ever thought of running your Tech class like a real workplace? Appoint students to the roles of Safety Supervisors and Production Team Leaders. Why not form a joint health and safety committee?

In these roles, your students can help you analyze tasks involving machinery for safety. It doesn't take away your responsibility, but it sure makes the job a little easier!

About forklifts at work...

BY TISH AMICO

In many of the presentations I have delivered to teachers, questions have arisen regarding requirements for the use and operation of forklift trucks. Many teachers have asked if a license is required to drive a forklift and what safety precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of their students who are placed in environments where operating a lift truck is a major component of the job.

The Ministry of Labour has seen many serious and deadly injuries involving lift trucks. The latest resulted in the death this year of a 16 year old.

Regulations made under Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act require that an employer ensures that the powered lift truck operator is a "competent person".

The employer should determine competence based on the employee's knowledge and performance as laid out in the Ministry of Labour's [Guideline for the Safe Operation and Maintenance of Powered Lift Trucks](#).

This document sets standards for what a competent operator MUST know and demonstrate to be competent.

It's important to know that operating a lift truck requires a high degree of training and experience. The Canadian Standards Association in its Powered Lift Truck Standard B335-04 recommends eight hours of classroom



Forklifts can be more dangerous than they seem

training and four hours of practical training before a person is ready to learn to drive a lift truck in the workplace.

There is no provincially recognized certification or license for driving a forklift. Because employers are required by law to provide job-specific health and safety training to employees, training on one particular forklift does not mean that the worker is qualified to drive a different forklift, or even the same one, at a different work site.

Some employers and training providers issue certificates to graduates of training programs, but these certificates only indicate that the person has completed that training provider's course, not that they are forever qualified to drive any lift truck in any workplace.



Bright Idea

Check out our Live Safe! Work Smart! website at www.livesafeworksmart.net for all the latest teacher and classroom safety resources, information and activities! If your Board has an intranet site, why not ask to have a link added?

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future newsletters.
Contact me at tishamico@sympatico.ca to share your thoughts.

Links

- www.passporttosafety.com
- www.octe.on.ca
- www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/guidelines/lifttrucks/index.html