



Mining Sector Plan 2008/09

**Ministry of Labour
Occupational Health and
Safety Program**

Introduction

The Mining Health and Safety Program (MHSP) does not work alone in improving health and safety in mines and mining plants. It is joined by partners in Ontario's occupational health and safety system, which include the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and the Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association. These organizations primarily work with the MHSP through various sector inter-agency groups (SIGs) to develop strategies directed at problem areas where Lost Time Injuries (LTIs) are statistically the highest or most likely to occur.

The MHSP will strive to achieve continued progress through effective partnerships. System partners have identified three strategic areas where the organizations can function better as a system: by **aligning** common initiatives and objectives; by creating **knowledge** about the prevention of occupational injury and illness; and by strengthening the **commitment** of employers and employees to build safe and healthy workplaces.

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) will also embark on initiatives to address issues with chronic violators as well as working with small businesses to assist them in providing a safe workplace for their staff.

Over the course of the *Safe At Work Ontario* program, MOL inspectors will be playing close attention to supervisors on projects to ensure that they are focused on fulfilling their duties under section 27 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and the regulations, and that they have adequate tools to do so from their employers.

The purpose of this plan is to share with our stakeholders the manner in which the MOL will enhance health and safety compliance in each of the sectors within the employer community.

Sector Summary: Mining

DESCRIPTION

- Mines (underground workings and open pits), mills (includes steel mills up to blast furnaces), smelters, refineries, quarries, sand and gravel, oil and gas surface facilities

SIZE

- Number of registered premises = 7,889

HISTORY OF LOST TIME INJURIES (LTIs)

- **Calendar Year** **2006**
 ***LTI Rate** 0.8
 **LTI rate = LTI/100 workers*

Source: Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association Data

ENVIRONMENT (growth, trends, etc.)

- Large corporate operations, particularly in Northern Ontario, providing significant contributions to provincial and local economies
- Involves operations from mineral exploration to large scale underground activities which require extremely large capital investment
- Sand stone and aggregate range from very small operations to major aggregate producers
- Includes industrial mineral operations
- Current “boom” in exploration with high mineral prices
- Industry having difficulty securing experienced workers
- New workers required to complete core training programs before commencement of work

MAJOR HAZARDS

- Falls of persons
- Falls of rock
- Machinery contact
- Stockpiles of material
- Conveyors
- Explosives
- Dust

KEY ISSUES

- Falls of ground
- Falls of person

- Mobile equipment incidents
- Training

ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT FOCUS

- Internal Responsibility System/Joint Health and Safety Committee and Health and Safety Representatives
- Fall arrest, rescue plans
- Open hole protection
- Vehicle operation areas vs. pedestrian/personnel vehicles in production areas, remote control operations, brake testing
- Scaling/ground support
- Ventilation/dust control
- Shaft sinking/shaft inspections
- Blasting practices
- Inspection focus planned for audit of training per Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) programs

SECTOR IDENTIFICATION (rate group/SIC codes)

WSIB Rate Group

110	Gold Mines
113	Nickel Mines
119	Other Mines
134	Aggregates

SIC Codes

2111	Oil and Gas Extraction
2122	Metal Ore Mining
2123	Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying
2131	Support Activities for Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction