

Health & Safety At Work TODAY

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Ontario develops integrated health & safety strategy



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Ontario introduces mandatory occupational health and safety training for workers and supervisors



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Safe At Work Ontario Consultation Sessions



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Ontario develops integrated health and safety strategy



Ontario has launched a system-wide occupational health and safety strategy, the first of its kind in Ontario and a significant step in transforming a diverse set of organizations into one interconnected system.

This strategy provides a clear vision – a road map – to guide Ontario's health and safety system, and workplaces. The strategy will direct efforts towards eliminating workplace injuries, diseases and fatalities through a set of strategic priorities.

And it will help shape operational plans for the ministry and its partners in the years to come. These partners include those who provide health and safety training, prevention, advisory, compensation, clinical, outreach and research services – all of them play a role in helping to reduce the number of workplace injuries, fatalities and illnesses.

This strategy comes on the heels of extensive consultation with our partners and stakeholders, and ongoing advice from the Prevention Council. The strategy is in response to recommendations from the 2010 Expert Advisory Panel that was struck following the deaths of four construction workers in Toronto on Christmas Eve.

This isn't just a road map that will influence Ontario's occupational health and safety system. The influence of the strategy will extend beyond the organizations in the system, including to government ministries, community organizations, businesses and labour groups. We all play a role when it comes to prevention and helping to ensure that all workers go home safe and sound to their loved ones at the end of the day.

To read the integrated strategy, please visit:

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/prevention/strategy/index.php>

George Gritziotis
Chief Prevention Officer

Exemptions

- Workers and supervisors who previously completed a worker or supervisor training program, either with their current or a former employer, do not have to take the training again if they can provide proof that they completed the training and their current employer is able to verify that the training program covered the content required by the regulation.
- A supervisor who has completed a basic occupational health and safety awareness training program for supervisors, prior to the regulation coming into force, does not have to complete a worker training program in addition to the supervisor program.



Ontario introduces mandatory occupational health and safety training for workers and supervisors

Ontario has become the first province in Canada to introduce mandatory occupational health and safety training for workers and supervisors. These training programs fulfill two important priority recommendations from an Expert Advisory Panel on occupational health and safety.

We've made a long-term commitment to ensure workers and supervisors undertake basic training in occupational health and safety. This is fundamental to curbing not only workplace incidents, but occupational illnesses that develop over time.

All workers at workplaces that fall under the Occupational Health and Safety Act should be trained before they start at a new job or be trained at their current job.

While the regulation was announced on Nov. 15, 2013, it will come into force **July 1, 2014**. To help employers meet that date for their workers and supervisors, we have developed a suite of training programs to help:

www.Ontario.ca/LearnToWorkSafe

These programs are free, and are one way that employers, supervisors and workers can complete the training. Training modules are available online or for download, and hard copies of the workbooks and employer guides can be ordered from ServiceOntario.

The ministry has made provisions for workers to take their proof of training with them from workplace to workplace, so they don't have to repeat what they've already done.

To help new Ontarians, these materials are available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, and traditional and simplified Chinese. By next spring, special low-literacy versions of both the online training and the hard copy booklets will be available for those who have difficulty reading in any language.

We are on target to ensure more than 6 million Ontarians – supervisors and workers – get fundamental training on the occupational health and safety laws in Ontario.

It's the next step in helping to ensure that all workers know their rights and responsibilities on the job.

Cordelia Clarke Julien
Director of Training & Safety Programs, Prevention Office



Safe At Work Ontario consultation sessions

In early 2014, Ontario's health and safety partners, including the ministry's Operations and Prevention divisions, will hold consultation sessions across Ontario to offer representatives from employer, labour, small businesses and vulnerable worker interest groups the opportunity to discuss the ministry's *Safe At Work Ontario* enforcement strategy.

The consultations will also help inform how Ontario's occupational health and safety prevention services can align themselves to enhance workplace health, safety and fairness. These discussions give stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on issues spanning the full spectrum of workplace health and safety and employment standards from program development to education to enforcement.

The consultations come several weeks after the ministry released its Integrated Occupational Health and Safety Strategy.

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/strategy.php

"The role that our partners play in the success of the province's *Safe At Work Ontario* strategy is paramount. These sessions help the ministry and others obtain feedback, note areas of improvement and open lines of dialogue. They also provide support for new directions in the ongoing pursuit of healthier and safer workplaces," said Sophie Dennis, the ministry's Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations.

If you require additional information about the consultations, please contact the ministry at SAWOConsultations@Ontario.ca.

The ministry would like to thank its partners for their dedication and commitment in ensuring the continued improvement of Ontario's workplaces.

Working at Heights Training Program Standard

The ministry has collaborated with its labour and employer partners to develop a Working at Heights Training Program Standard that will be the basis for compulsory working at heights training in the construction sector.

The release of the program standard highlights the ministry's commitment to support quality and consistent working at heights training. You can view the standard at www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/standard_wah.php.

Ministry's Health & Safety Contact Centre provides service in more languages

The Ministry of Labour's toll-free Health & Safety Contact Centre now provides service in more than 150 languages. This will better enable the centre to serve callers whose native language is neither English nor French.

New online: video

Ontario Farm Worker Safety and Biosecurity Protocols When Visiting a Farm

Watch what a Ministry of Labour inspector typically does during a farming operation inspection. The Ontario government has biosecurity protocols in place to prevent the transfer of diseases or biological hazards between farms. These protocols are followed by all government workers including those at the Ministry of Labour.

The phone number (1-877-202-0008) allows anyone to report workplace health and safety incidents or unsafe work practices. The public can also call the number if they have an occupational health and safety question.

With CanTalk, the ministry advisor will be able to quickly connect a call to an interpreter. A three-way conversation then takes place. The ministry anticipates that the service will lead to better and faster resolution of workplace concerns involving workplace parties, particularly vulnerable workers.

The list of languages offered includes:

- Afghani
- Afrikaans
- Akan
- Albanian
- Amharic
- Arabic
- Aramaic
- Armenian
- Assyrian
- Azarbaijani
- Azari/Azeri
- Belorussian
- Bengali
- Berber
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Burmese
- Cantonese
- Cebuano
- Chaldean
- Chao Chow
- Chilcotin
- Chipewyan
- Cree
- Cree-James Bay
- Cree-Plains
- Cree-Swampy
- Cree-Swampy Cree
- Cree-Woodlands
- Creole
- Creole-Haitian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dari
- Dene
- Dinka
- Dogrib
- Dutch
- Eritrean
- Estonian
- Fante
- Farsi
- Fijian
- Finnish
- Flemish
- Formosan
- French
- French-Canadian
- Frisian
- Fuchownese
- Fur
- Ga
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Gwichin
- Hakka
- Harari
- Hausa
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Hokkien
- Huizhou
- Hungarian
- Icelandic
- Igbo/Ibo
- Ilocano
- Indonesian
- Inuinaktun
- Inuktitut
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kakwa
- Karen
- Khmer/Cambo-dian
- Kinyarwanda
- Kirundi
- Kiswahili
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Kutchi
- Lao
- Latin
- Lingala
- Lithuanian
- Low German
- Lugbara
- Ma Di
- Macedonian
- Malay
- Malayalam
- Maltese
- Mandarin
- Mandingo
- Marathi
- Micif
- Mien
- Min Nan
- Moldavian
- Mongolian
- Ndebele
- Nepali
- North Slavey
- Norwegian
- Nuer
- Nyanja

Health and Safety Partners

The ministry works closely with its partners to protect worker's health and safety on the job:
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/websites.php

- Nzema
- Ojibway
- Ojicree
- Oromo
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Pushto
- Romanian
- Russian
- Salish
- Sanskrit
- Saulteaux
- Serbian
- Serbo-Croatian
- Shanghainese
- Shona
- Sicilian
- Sindhi
- Sinhala
- Slovakian
- Slovenian
- Somali
- South Slavey
- Spanish
- Susu
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Tagalog
- Taiwanese
- Tamil
- Telegu
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Tigrinya
- Toisan
- Tongan
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Twi/Asante
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Veneto
- Vietnamese
- Yiddish
- Zulu

Winter blitz focuses on construction hazards



Inspectors are targeting construction hazards at active, existing workplaces during a province-wide blitz in January 2014.

The inspectors are visiting active industrial, retail, municipal and educational workplaces that have submitted a Notice of Project for construction work to the Ministry of Labour.

As a focus of the blitz, inspectors may also visit workplaces:

- with a high incidence of construction-related injuries resulting in lost time at work
- not previously visited by the ministry
- where complaints have been received
- where there is a history of non-compliance
- that haven't submitted a Notice of Project to the ministry

During the blitz, ministry inspectors will check that employers, supervisors and workers are complying with requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations.

Workers can suffer serious injury or illness if exposed to construction hazards at their workplace. This can include exposure to hazards such as dust, noise and designated materials such as asbestos, lead and silica. Other hazards can include:

- slips, trips or falls due to debris or uneven walking surfaces
- tripping over equipment
- excavated materials or other objects falling on workers
- unstable nearby structures such as other buildings

- mishandled or poorly placed materials
- hazardous atmospheres (noxious gases/lack of oxygen)
- electrical cord hazards
- toxic, irritating or flammable and explosive gases
- incidents involving vehicles and other mobile equipment
- blocked access and egress routes
- inadequate project barricades/workplace delineation
- unsafe use of propane heaters

For more information on the blitz, visit: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/topics/construction.php

Blitz on locking and tagging in mine hoisting plants



Ministry of Labour inspectors are focusing on hazards involving locking and tagging of equipment during a blitz in January and February of hoisting plants in underground mines across the province.

During the blitz, ministry mining inspectors are checking that mines are protecting workers from possible hazards involving locking and tagging on mine hoisting equipment. They will ensure employers and contractors are complying with Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations.

Warehousing blitz



Ontario will focus on hazards that can occur in warehouses and storage areas to prevent workplace injuries across the province.

In February and March 2014, Ministry of Labour inspectors will visit warehouses and retail establishments. They will check that employers are taking appropriate action to assess and address possible hazards.

Warehouses are commercial buildings used to store goods, raw materials and other commodities.

The inspectors will check for compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations. In particular, they will check that:

- racking and storage systems are selected and installed to ensure worker safety
- trucks and trailers are immobilized and secured to prevent movement when workers are nearby
- lifting devices and forklifts are maintained in good condition
- safe work practices are in place to prevent slips, trips and falls
- workers are packing, picking orders and moving stock in a safe manner to prevent musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)

Looking for information? Start here,
on our Health and Safety page:
www.ontario.ca/HealthAndSafetyAtWork

Ministry blitzes the Internal Responsibility System (IRS) in mines

Some 25,000 workers work in Ontario's various mining subsectors. They face hazards that can result in serious, or even fatal, injuries and occupational diseases.

In July and August of 2013, ministry inspectors conducted a blitz of underground and surface mines. They focused on the mines' Internal Responsibility System (IRS).

The IRS is a system in which everyone – employers, supervisors and workers – all have key roles in ensuring a safe and healthy workplace. The goal is to eliminate workplace injuries and deaths. Workplaces with a good IRS generally have fewer incidents because the IRS promotes compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA).

Mines with a poor IRS may have:

- a high number of incidents and worker injuries
- a high number of workers refusing to work
- continued non-compliance with the OHSA and its regulations
- a workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) that is not performing its duties under the OHSA, or whose members have not been provided with the required training

Orders issued during the blitz mainly related to employers' responsibilities. Although the JHSC requirements were relatively low in number, they pointed towards a need for continued focus and stakeholder interaction on some fundamental elements of the IRS.

The blitz emphasized the importance of the IRS to the mining industry. The ideology of the IRS promotes self-reliant workplaces and employers. The ministry will continue to promote the importance of the IRS during inspection activities in mines.

Full blitz results: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/blitzes/blitz_report51.php

More information about the Internal Responsibility System: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/mining/syn_minirs_2.php