

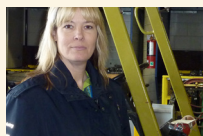
Health & Safety At Work **TODAY**

Issue #7 | July 2014

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Sector plans detail ministry's enforcement priorities and initiatives



The Ministry of Labour has just released new sector plans for the upcoming year. These sector-oriented plans focus on hazards specific to workplaces in various sectors of the economy.

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Basic health and safety awareness training now mandatory



On July 1, mandatory health and safety training for workers and supervisors came into force. All workers and supervisors at workplaces that fall under the Occupational Health and Safety Act must already be trained in basic occupational health and safety awareness.

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New training standards released for joint health and safety committee certification



Ontario is releasing new standards that will improve workplace safety, and benefit business, by providing consistent, quality training to certify Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) members.

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Sector plans detail ministry's enforcement priorities and initiatives



The Ministry of Labour has released new sector plans for the upcoming year. These sector-oriented plans focus on hazards specific to workplaces in various sectors of the economy. They describe the industrial, health care, construction and mining sectors, as well as the ministry's specialized and professional services office, and outline what inspectors will be looking for during an inspection. They also detail program priorities, enforcement initiatives, blitz activities and regional initiatives planned for the year.

Annually, the ministry reviews and analyzes injury and illness data, consults with stakeholders and internal staff and works with ministry partners such as the Health and Safety Associations and other partners to identify the enforcement focus for the upcoming year. This year, the ministry has enhanced its plans by including region-specific initiatives. These initiatives may run up to two years and focus on sectors or hazards that are specific to a geographical area in Ontario.

You are encouraged to review the relevant sector plans with your Joint Health and Safety Committee or health and safety representative to understand some of the common compliance issues that are identified in workplaces like yours.

The sector plans are available at:

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/sectorplans/index.php

Basic health and safety awareness training now mandatory



On July 1, mandatory health and safety training for workers and supervisors came into force.

All workers and supervisors at workplaces that fall under the Occupational Health and Safety Act must be trained in basic occupational health and safety awareness.

One way to complete the training is by using the ministry's free training program suite, which includes the eLearning modules and workbooks. Printed workbooks can also be ordered from ServiceOntario. This suite is compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and is available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese.

To assist employers in complying with the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training Regulation (O. Reg. 297/13) under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the ministry has developed new awareness training guidance tools. These guidance tools are compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and available on the ministry's website in English and French.

The free guidance tools include:

- The **Training Program Assessment for Workers and Supervisors** — helps employers assess whether their occupational health and safety awareness training program meets the minimum requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training Regulation (O. Reg. 297/13).
- The **Record Keeping Template** — a sample template that employers can use to record occupational health and safety awareness training for their workers and supervisors.
- The **Knowledge Check for Workers and Supervisors** — one way employers can verify that previous training for their workers and supervisors meets the minimum requirements.

All the training materials and guidance tools to help workplaces comply with the regulation can be found at: www.ontario.ca/learntoworksafe.

New training standards released for joint health and safety committee certification



Ontario has released new standards — developed with input from employers, labour, and other health and safety partners — that would improve workplace safety and benefit business by providing consistent, quality training to certify Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) members.

It's anticipated that the new training standards would be finalized by the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) in fall 2014 and come into effect in early 2015.

"These standards will provide new thresholds for learning outcomes and will set new minimum requirements for organizations and individuals to deliver the training," said George Gritziotis, Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer. "By giving JHSC members relevant health and safety training, we're helping to make workplaces across Ontario safer."

Industry focus groups on specific aspects of the training are anticipated in the coming months across all sectors, beginning with the mining sector. The focus groups on mining hazards will be held in conjunction with a comprehensive mining health, safety and prevention review currently being led by the CPO.

JHSCs bring together labour and management representatives who meet on a regular basis for the purpose of making workplaces safer. Generally, workplaces with 20 or more workers are required to have a JHSC with one certified worker member and one certified employer member. To become certified, JHSC members must complete certification training and other requirements established by the Chief Prevention Officer.

The new training standards would outline the requirements that must be met for approval of JHSC certification training programs and for approval of the providers of those programs by Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer.

The changes are part of the government's commitment to preventing workplace injuries and illnesses and keeping workers safe on the job.

STOP FALLS! Before they stop you

When you see this symbol, stop and think about the role everyone has to play in preventing falls from heights and keeping workplaces healthy and safe.

Fall protection/hazards

The Ministry of Labour is targeting hazards involving falls at construction sites in July and August 2014.

During the blitz, inspectors are focusing on ensuring that constructors, employers, supervisors and workers are complying with requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations.

Over the past decade, incidents involving falls have resulted in serious injuries and deaths at construction sites in Ontario.

Inspectors are visiting a variety of construction projects such as ones involving:

- low-rise construction
- high-rise 'forming' (structures into which concrete is poured)

Special attention will be given to projects with exterior finishing activities, including stucco, drywall and sheet metal.

Inspectors are checking that:

- employers have policies, programs and safe work practices in place to protect workers from fall hazards
- workers working on ladders, mobile stands and platforms are properly trained and supervised
- workers use appropriate fall protection systems, personal protective equipment and other safety devices
- openings in floors and work surfaces and walls are protected by guardrails or protective coverings

Inspectors will take enforcement action, as appropriate, in response to any violations of the OHSA and its regulations.

www.ontario.ca/constructionsafety

Summer mine blitz targets explosives

The Ministry of Labour is targeting hazards involving explosives to better protect workers at mines this summer.

Mine safety is a priority for the Ontario government. In the past five years, 11 enforcement blitzes have focused on safety gear, ventilation systems, loading pocket system hazards, locking and tagging of equipment in hoisting plants and other issues in the mining sector.

In July and August, Ministry of Labour inspectors are visiting underground and surface mines as well as quarries. They are focusing on hazards involving the use, handling and storage of explosives, including the transporting of explosives from a manufacturer or supplier delivery vehicle, to storage areas and drilled holes at a mine site.

In particular, the blitz will focus on:

- recently reopened or new mines
- mines with a poor compliance history

Inspectors will take enforcement action, as appropriate, in response to any violations found under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations.

Video: Working at the Rock Face in Underground Mines

Learn what the Ministry of Labour looks for during a ground control inspection at an underground mine, as a ministry engineer explains how he checks ground conditions and the rock mass, and evaluates the measures in place to control hazards.

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/gallery/v_rockface_hs.php

Summer blitz targets new and young worker safety



From May to August 2014, Ministry of Labour inspectors are visiting industrial sector workplaces across Ontario, focusing on the safety of new and young workers. Their goal is to prevent critical and fatal injuries.

These inspectors will focus on overall compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. It will be the seventh consecutive year that a new and young worker blitz is held.

Employer responsibilities involving new and young workers include:

- taking every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker
- providing information, instruction and supervision to a worker
- maintaining equipment or devices in good condition
- preparing a written occupational health and safety policy
- complying with the OHSA requirements for workplace Joint Health and Safety Committees (JHSC) or health and safety representatives, and ensuring JHSC meetings and workplace inspections take place
- ensuring safe material handling procedures; providing ladders and procedures for safe use; and instruction regarding use of compressed gas cylinders
- providing, as required: guarding; eyewash fountains; guardrails; lifting devices; fire protection; protection against electrical hazards; secure machinery; in accordance with the Industrial Establishments Regulation R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 851

Also, as of July 1, inspectors are checking whether employers have completed the mandatory supervisor and worker awareness training.

The blitz will focus on the safety of:

- young workers aged 14 to 24
- new workers who are on the job for less than six months or assigned to a new job — this includes both ‘young workers’ and those 25 and older

New workers include:

- any new hire, either permanent or temporary, including supervisors, with or without experience in the industry where they are working
- current workers who are assigned to new jobs
- student workers, co-op placements or apprentices
- seasonal workers

For more information on how to protect younger workers, visit:

www.ontario.ca/youngworkers

Enforcement initiative focuses on health care sector



More than 700,000 people work in Ontario's health care sector. They work at more than 6,000 hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, community care and other workplaces across Ontario. Health care workers are at high risk of injury and illness.

A new enforcement initiative for the health care sector is planned, starting in July 2014 and running until 2017. As part of this initiative, all acute care hospitals will be inspected over three years. Additional health care facilities will also be identified for inspection, including long-term care homes, retirement homes and community health care services.

Ministry of Labour inspectors will continue to focus on overall compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations, such as O. Reg. 67/93 (Health Care and Residential Facilities) and the O. Reg. 474/07 (Needle Safety).

The 2014-2015 Health Care Enforcement Initiative is based on:

- priorities outlined in the Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces Strategy
- stakeholder feedback
- system partner feedback (e.g., Health and Safety Associations)
- inspector field intelligence (e.g., inspectors, regional office staff)
- issues that have been the focus of previous blitzes and campaign initiatives
- quantitative data collected from the WSIB and enforcement activities

The initiative will include an evaluation of the Internal Responsibility System (IRS) and compliance with the new mandatory awareness training regulation. The initiative will also address the five most serious hazards in health care:

- musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
- exposures to infectious diseases and to hazardous biological, chemical and physical agents
- slips, trips and falls
- contact with/struck by injuries
- workplace violence

For more information, please visit:

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/blitzes/healthcare_initiatives.php

Occupational Health and Safety Act:

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90o01_e.htm

Ontario Regulation 67/93, Health Care and Residential Facilities:

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_930067_e.htm

New ministry initiatives focus on regional areas

This year, as part of the *Safe At Work Ontario* enforcement strategy, the Ministry of Labour has included regional initiatives to target workplace hazards and sectors that are specific to a geographic area in Ontario.

Regional initiatives allow the ministry to raise awareness in a specific area and mobilize its inspectors to focus on workplaces that have a high incidence of workplace injuries or illnesses that would not otherwise be captured under a provincial initiative or blitz.

Some regional initiatives include:

- Residential/cottage development in the northern region
- Farming operations in the eastern region
- Wineries in the western region
- Amusement devices and food distribution centres in the Greater Toronto Area

To see the full list of regional initiatives as well as the timing, please visit the Ministry of Labour's inspection blitzes and initiatives page at:

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/resources/blitzschedule.php

Protecting outdoor workers



As summer arrives, many Ontarians are welcoming the warmer days in the wake of record-breaking lows this past winter.

But working outdoors presents many hazards. Working where it is hot puts stress on your body's cooling system. When heat is combined with other stresses such as hard physical work, loss of fluids, fatigue, or some pre-existing medical conditions, it may lead to heat-related illness, disability or even death. Learn how to protect workers from heat stress.

www.ontario.ca/heatstress

Workers who work in certain outdoor areas are also at risk for tick bites and developing Lyme disease, and should protect themselves. Blacklegged ticks that can transmit Lyme disease are in Ontario, and in more areas than previously thought. Learn more: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/lyme.php

The warmer temperatures also bring out the mosquitoes. The chance of being bitten by a mosquito infected with the West Nile Virus is very small. However, as a safety precaution it is still important to minimize exposure to mosquitoes in areas where the West Nile Virus has been documented. Learn more about how to protect workers: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/faqs/wnv.php

While outdoors, workers can also touch hazardous plants, which in some cases can lead to permanent scarring. Learn about common hazardous plants in Ontario: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/hazardous_plants.php

The summer is often a time for work and play for many Ontario workers and their families. But learn to take the necessary precautions to ensure that hazards found outdoors are properly addressed.

Ontario students win big in national video contest on workplace safety

A video about how a person's life isn't as easily replaced as a damaged cell phone. A clip about how the loss of life's simplest pleasures should be one of our greatest fears when not taking proper safety precautions.

These were the themes from two videos — created by Ontario high school students — that won first and second place, respectively, in the nationwide 'It's Your Job' video contest.

The contest was open to secondary school students across Canada. Each province and territory held their own 'It's Your Job' contest, and the top winners moved on to compete nationwide.

The Ontario portion of the contest attracted 76 entries from more than 200 students from a total of 43 schools. The winning students and the corresponding schools received cash prizes and certificates. A team of celebrity judges then judged the top winners from all the provinces and territories. Canadians also voted for their favourite video online. Watch the creative videos in the link below!

2014 Canadian winners

1st place — \$2,000 cash prize!

Ben Croskery from John McCrae Secondary School in Ottawa, Ontario, won for his video, 'On Call.'

2nd place — \$1,500 cash prize!

Pranay Noel and Martin Czachor from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga, Ontario won for their video, 'Flower.'

3rd place — \$1,300 cash prize!

Dane Cutcliffe from Colonel Gray High School in Prince Edward Island won for their video, 'Lost Dreams.'

In addition, each winning secondary school received a matching prize.

Events

Partners in Prevention Conference Series

- October 2, 2014: Sudbury
- October 21, 2014: Ottawa
- October 28, 2014: Kitchener
- November 4-5, 2014: Forum North, Thunder Bay
- November 13, 2014: Thornhill
- November 20, 2014: Niagara Falls

www.wsps.ca/Shop/Conferences-and-Events/Conferences.aspx

Canadians have voted for their favourite video!

Dylan Pappenfoot, Logan Seipp and Dylan Stadnyk received the most votes for his/her video named 'Just Ask,' earning them first place in the Fan Favourite category. The high school students from Humboldt Collegiate Institute in Saskatchewan took home a \$1,000 cash prize.

2014 Ontario winners

1st place (tied) — \$1,000 cash prize!

Pranay Noel and Martin Czachor from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga, Ontario, won for their video, 'Flower.'

1st place (tied) — \$1,000 cash prize!

Scott Weeks and Clark DeCaluwe from H.B. Beal Secondary School in London, Ontario, won for their video, 'Fun and Games.'

2nd place — \$750 cash prize!

Ben Croskery from John McCrae Secondary School in Ottawa, Ontario, won for his video, 'On Call.'

3rd place — \$500 cash prize!

Alec MacDonald, Madison Kvaltin and Holly Gran from Lockerby Composite School in Sudbury, Ontario, won for their video, 'Start Safety Young.'

In addition, each winning secondary school received a matching prize.

You'll find all the winning videos here: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/contest/winners2014.php.

Construction in active workplaces blitz results



In January 2014, Ministry of Labour inspectors targeted construction hazards during a blitz at active, existing workplaces where non-construction workers were actively employed and doing work.

They checked that constructors and employers were protecting onsite workers — in both construction and non-construction — from any hazards that could arise from direct or indirect exposure to construction activities. This included checking that constructors, employers, supervisors and workers were complying with requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations.

During the blitz, ministry inspectors checked workplaces:

- with a high incidence of construction-related injuries resulting in lost time at work
- not previously visited by the ministry
- where previous complaints were received
- where there was a history of non-compliance

During the blitz, inspectors conducted 903 visits to 808 workplaces. They issued 1,696 orders and requirements under the OHSA, including 80 stop-work orders.

New resources

- **2014-15 Sector Plans:**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/sectorplans/index.php
- **Sector Trends: Construction**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/sectortrends/index.php
- **Mining video:**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/gallery/v_rockface_hs.php
- **Tip sheet for agricultural workers about their workplace safety and employment standards rights. In English, French, Spanish and Thai:**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/atwork/aw_tips.php
- **Tunnel Rescue Trainer Appointment, application process:**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/tunnel_rescue.php
- **Hazard Alert, Fixed Rail Ladder (FRL) Fall Protection System:**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/alerts/a26.php
- **Hazard Alert, Safety Requirements for Powered Folding Partitions:**
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/alerts/i37.php

Further results can be found at: www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/blitzes/blitz_report58.php

Locking and tagging blitz results

In January and February 2014, mining inspectors and engineers checked that workers were protected from possible hazards involving locking and tagging on mine hoisting equipment.

Mine hoisting plants house equipment used to raise and lower people or materials between the surface and underground in mines. Locking refers to the lockout of any type of energy if work is being done on the equipment. Tagging refers to the placing of a tag on a lockout device.

Equipment is locked out and tagged to protect workers from possible movement of hoisting equipment and/or exposure to harmful electrical currents. These hazards can result in serious injuries to workers.

Inspectors checked on compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its applicable regulations.

The goal was to:

- raise awareness of locking and tagging hazards in mine hoisting plants
- promote compliance with legislation and best work practices
- encourage employers to identify and control associated hazards
- improve health and safety for workers in underground mines

During the blitz, ministry inspectors conducted 30 visits to 28 workplaces. They issued nine orders under the OHSA, including one stop-work order.

Further results can be found at:
www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/blitzes/blitz_report59.php

Learn more about your workplace rights:
Ontario.ca/workplacerrights