

Health & Safety  
Professionals Inc.  
Suite 117-143A Gr.  
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**Recognize**



**Assess**



**Control**

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## **New Powers for Industrial Ministry of Labour Inspectors**

**A**s of January 15th, 2005 Ministry of Labour Health and Safety Inspectors have the power to issue tickets for unsafe workplace practices. Until now, inspectors have only issued tickets in construction, mining, and diving. This option is now available as an enforcement tool in the industrial sector. Examples of industrial

workplaces include the manufacturing and automotive industries, logging, restaurants, hotels, and retail operations.

Ticketing is an enforcement tool, which allows inspectors to issue on-the-spot offence notices under the Provincial Offences Act. It will be much like receiving a parking ticket. Inspectors may issue tickets during a routine workplace inspection, or while investigating complaints, injuries, or a work refusal.

Tickets can be issued for 81 workplace health and safety violations in the industrial sector. These violations pose an immediate and potentially serious hazard to a worker, are immediately observable by inspectors, and do not raise complex legal or factual issues. The tickets are aimed at high-risk activities.

Some examples include:

- The use of chainsaws;
- Work on or near electrical installations or with electrical tools;
- Lifting devices such as forklifts;
- Portable ladders; and
- Logging.

**...the Ministry is  
hiring 200 new  
inspectors...**

The fines range from \$195.00 to \$295.00 for the employer, supervisor, or worker. One example where all three parties could be fined is failure to ensure, or wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as head, eye, foot, or fall protection. For a complete listing of fines visit [www.ontariocourts.on.ca/ontario\\_court\\_justice/recent\\_changes/index.htm](http://www.ontariocourts.on.ca/ontario_court_justice/recent_changes/index.htm)

Once issued a ticket, the party has three options:

1. Plead guilty by signing the back of the ticket and paying the fine at the court office.
2. Give notice of intention to appear in court and request a trial. At trial, plead guilty and make a submission before a provincial judge or justice of the peace (JP). The JP may reduce the fine.
3. Plead not guilty by giving notice of intention to appear in court and request a trial before a provincial judge or justice.

The new ticketing powers for industrial inspectors are part of a larger initiative of the Ministry of Labour. In July of 2004, the government announced a plan to reduce workplace injuries by 20% over the next four years. This translates into preventing 60,000 workplace injuries a year in Ontario by 2008. In an attempt to reach that goal, the Ministry is hiring 200 new inspectors, targeting workplaces with the highest lost-time injury rates, and pairing with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to complete compliance audits.

*For more details, join us at our training session on May 25, 2005. (See schedule pg. 4.)*



## SUMMER FUN

Believe it or not, summer is on the way and will be here before we know it. We spend the long winter months dreaming about the freedom of being active without heavy coats, boots, and tromping through snow. The sun and heat are mixed blessings, though, and we would like to review a few pointers to help you enjoy summer to the fullest.

**Sun Overdose** Many of us are so starved for sun after the dark days of winter, that we overdo it on our first few occasions of exposure in May and June. Unfortunately the down side of overexposure is red skin, discomfort, and blisters. Potential long-term effects are cataracts, leathery skin, and skin cancer. Plan outdoor work and leisure activities for the coolest time of the day whenever possible; before 10 am and after four pm.

Sunscreen should have a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15. It needs to be applied generously to all exposed skin 30 minutes before going outside, and reapplied about every 2 hours, even on cloudy days. Fair skinned individuals, people who spend long periods of time outdoors, and children may need a higher SPF. Each time skin is exposed to sun and becomes tanned or burned, damage is done to individual cells. Some medications increase the skin's sensitivity to sun, so check with your doctor or pharmacist, for advice, if you are taking a prescription.

Sunglasses should indicate that they protect against UVA and UVB rays. Clothing needs to be tightly woven and have long sleeves. Hats (with brims) help to protect the face, head, ears, and neck. The Weather Channel broadcasts the UV index daily, so that can be a guide when planning outdoor activities.

**Heat Overdose** Heat itself can cause significant problems. Heavy sweating, when performing heavy work in a hot environment, results in a loss of fluids, salts, and other minerals from our bodies. The result is that muscles begin to cramp and twitch. The remedy is to stop activity for several hours, rest in a cool location, and drink a sports drink. If the cramps do not go away after one hour, seek medical attention. To prevent heat cramps, drink lots of fluids during heavy activity.

Heat exhaustion is also caused by loss of fluids and minerals from the body. Signs and symptoms include heavy sweating, paleness, weakness, headache, and nausea or vomiting. Skin may be cool and moist, and pulse will be fast and weak. It is important to get out of the heat, cool down, drink fluids, and rest. If symptoms last longer than one hour, seek medical attention. If untreated, heat stroke can occur.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat related condition, and occurs when the body's cooling system is overwhelmed. Signs and symptoms are extremely high body temperature; red, hot, dry skin; rapid but strong pulse; throbbing headache; dizziness; and nausea. If left untreated, confusion and unconsciousness can occur. Treatment includes cooling the person as quickly as possible and getting medical attention.

*HSPI offers a heat stress course and workplace consultations.*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**IAPA SUPERIOR HEALTH & SAFETY  
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW**  
May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Best Western Great Northern, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

Effective results through learning & sharing – Latest trends in health and safety  
26 concurrent sessions AND 7 informative workshops

- True Cost of Accidents • Lockout Tagout • Human Rights • Mental Health in the Workplace • Working Alone • Workwell Audit • Confined Spaces ... and more!

Early Bird Registration Rates in effect until April 22  
For information or registration call: 1-800-267-4272 or email superior@iapa.ca

**INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION ASSOCIATION**

 In conjunction with Sault Ste Marie Safe Communities Partnership Health & Safety Celebration 2005

 **IAPA**  
It's About Making A Difference.

**WELLNESS/HEALTH TIP**

**Child Booster Seats and Child Restraints**

Did you know...

- that children using seat belts instead of booster seats are three and a half times more likely to suffer significant injury, and four times more likely to suffer head injury?
- motor vehicle collisions are still the leading cause of death and injury for children and youth?
- an unrestrained child in a 50 km/hr crash would suffer the same consequences as a child being dropped from a third storey window?
- when child car seats are used properly, they reduce the risk of death and injury by as much as 75%?



**Beginning September 2005:**

- Children between 18 kg and 36 kg (40-80 lbs.), with a standing height of less than 145 cm (4'9") or a maximum age of eight years are to use a booster seat.
- Parents and legal guardians, as well as baby sitters, grandparents, and primary caregivers will be required to use child car seats when travelling with toddlers, and
- The penalty is two demerit points for not complying with the law.

**FINES**

TORONTO, Ont. – On January 27, 2005, the Toronto District School Board was fined \$150,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health & Safety Act (Section 25(1)(c)) that resulted in the death of an employee.

A part-time caretaker was working the evening shift when overcome by gas from mixing two common cleaners together. The cleaners were toilet bowl cleaner and household bleach. Used alone, they are stable but, when mixed, they react chemically and this reaction releases a dangerous, corrosive, chlorine gas.

An investigation of the incident found that the individual had not received instruction on these products, as required by the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulation. The school board pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that the caretaker was instructed on: the contents, purpose and significance of the information on the labels for two cleaning products; the contents of the material safety data sheets and their purpose and significance; the procedures for the safe use and handling of these products; and the procedures in case of an emergency involving these products.

In addition, the Court imposed a 25% surcharge under the Provincial Offences Act. This fee is credited to a special provincial government fund to

**SUPERIOR HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE**

*Best Western, Gr. Northern Rd.*

*Sault Ste. Marie, ON*

**MAY 10 & 11, 2005**

**Come visit us  
at our booth!**



Health & Safety Professionals Inc.

## Learn More - Be Prepared Today for Tomorrow

### SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE

#### Basic Certification Training

April 5, 6, 7  
May 31, June 1, 2

#### Health & Safety Supervisor Training April 19 -21

#### Supervisor Due Diligence for Summer Students May 17

WHMIS May 17

#### Indoor Air Quality May 18

Stress in the Workplace  
May 19

#### WHMIS and Health & Safety Overview May 19

#### Bill C45 & New Initiatives for MOL May 25

*Our spring schedule is posted on our website [www.hspinc.ca](http://www.hspinc.ca)*

*In-house sessions are available. Please contact us to make arrangements.*

### Where is it on the Web?

[www.hspinc.ca](http://www.hspinc.ca)

**Health & Safety Professionals Inc.** - checkout our link under Training Schedule >>**View Training/Seminars Offered** for course details.

[www.cbs.gov.on.ca/obc/english/workplacegateway/index.htm](http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca/obc/english/workplacegateway/index.htm)

**Workplace Gateway** provides one stop access to information for employers, workers, and others regarding the workplace. Includes links to employment standards, environment protection and health & safety.


This site can also be reached through the Ministry of Labour web site. [www.gov.on.ca/LAB/english/](http://www.gov.on.ca/LAB/english/)

### PUBLICATION INFORMATION

*This newsletter is intended as an information overview of health and safety issues. While we strive to publish accurate information, the contents of this publication are not intended as legal or professional advice.*

*The information and recommendations contained in Safety In Action have been compiled from sources believed to be reliable. However, HSPI makes no guarantee as to, and assumes no responsibility for, the correctness, sufficiency or*



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