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Assess



Control

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ASSESS YOUR HAZARDS

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Northern Ontario Division of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, Nicole Gallant, Industrial Health and Safety Inspector for the Ministry of Labour (MOL), presented the capacity crowd with the Ministry of Labour's Cross-Sector Targeting Strategies for 2005/2006. They are:

1. Machine guarding and lockout;
2. Falls from all levels;
3. Pedestrians and mobile equipment;
4. Lifting devices - maintenance/operation;
5. Occupational health issues (WHMIS, Occupational Exposure Limits, Musculoskeletal Injuries);
6. Struck by falling / flying objects;
7. Young workers;
8. Temporary workers; and
9. Emergency Preparedness.

What should you do? Assess your workplace for the key hazards. They are high on the priority list for the MOL because they are causing injuries and fatalities in our workplaces.

The Ministry of Labour continues to have zero tolerance for lack of, improper, broken, not used or temporarily removed machine guards and lack of lockouts in workplaces. Some of the most serious injuries happen in relation to these hazards, and they are the most frequent orders written by the MOL. Therefore, if you have unguarded equipment or areas of your operation without a lockout procedure, you should correct this immediately.

Falls from all levels continue to be a concern, with a focus on falls from heights. What is your fall prevention strategy? Is it well documented, communicated to your staff, and do the appropriate persons have up-to-date training?

In the area of mobile equipment, focus on lift trucks. Ensure that your workers are trained, and that all maintenance records are up-to-date and available. The MOL's Guideline for the Safe Operation and Maintenance of Powered Lift Trucks can be found at www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/guidelines/lifttrucks/index.html

Don't forget about occupational health issues in your workplace. These are the chronic illnesses which plague employees. Is your WHMIS training up-to-date? Do you have any designated substances in your workplace, for example, asbestos? What are you doing to minimize or eliminate back, hand and shoulder injuries, and tasks that require repetitive motion (see page 3)?

Each year in Ontario, more than 50,000 young workers age 24 and under report injuries received on the job. In a three-year period, 39 young workers died as a result of workplace injuries (WSIB). According to the IAPA (2002) 56% of young workers reported that they had not received any training before taking on a new task. What are you doing for young workers and temporary employees in your workplace?

In the area of Emergency Preparedness, review the minimum requirements found in the WSIB's Workwell Audit (2003). Identify emergencies most likely to occur in the working environment, such as fire, power failure, gas leak, chemical spill, weather conditions, crime prevention, and workplace violence. Ensure that you have a floor plan of the workplace and an exit route for all employees, including an assembly point. Provide employees with training. In your emergency plan, assign and define responsibilities such as who contacts the emergency response unit; who completes a head count; who greets the emergency response unit; and who authorizes workplace re-entry?

All workplaces have areas which can be improved. By aligning your priorities with the MOL's list of key hazards, you can identify areas which many workplaces are having difficulties with. This will assist you in avoiding injuries to your workers and costly fines.

By Louise Caicco Tett, RN, BScN, President, HSPI

SUPERIOR HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE

Best Western, Gr. Northern Rd.,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON



MAY 9 & 10, 2006

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In February 2006, the Ontario government passed changes to the Construction Projects Regulation, Regulation 627/05. Some of these changes affect how electrical work can be completed on a project.

If work is performed on or near an electrical distribution or transmission system, this work must now be done according to the "Electrical Utility Safety Rules" which is published by the Electrical and Utilities Safety Association (E&USA), dated August 2004.

For all other electrical work, "no worker shall connect, maintain or modify electrical equipment or installations unless the worker is an electrician certified under the Trades Qualification and Apprenticeship Act or the worker is otherwise permitted to connect, maintain or modify electrical equipment or installations under the Trades Qualification and Apprenticeship Act, the Apprenticeship and Certification Act, or the Technical Standards and Safety Act." (Construction Projects, Section 182).

The changes to the regulation clearly put the onus on the employer to provide *written* notification of the hazard to a worker before the work begins. The employer must provide a copy of the written notification to the employee and explain it to him or her. There are also changes to the requirements for lockout and tag out.

A requirement for *written* measures and procedures has also been established for work being done on or near energized exposed parts of electrical equipment or of an electrical installation.

Regulation 627/05 requires not only the use of rubber gloves when the employee may be exposed to the hazard of electrical shock but also requires the employer to purchase only gloves that have been tested and certified to ensure they can withstand the voltages for which they are rated, and must test them once every three months if they are in service and at least once every six months if they are not in service (Construction Projects, Section 193 (2)). Are you compliant with the changes to this new legislation?

by Sandy Boudah, HSPI Associate

SAFETY TIP

Working Smoke Alarms: It's The Law!

A recent amendment to the Ontario Fire Code on March 1, 2006 now requires homes to have working smoke alarms on every level. This is in addition to the existing requirement of having smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas. The amendment applies to all single-family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented. Failure to do so could result in a ticket for \$235.

Landlords must make sure their rental properties comply with the law. Individual landlords who fail to comply with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can face penalties of up to \$50,000.

Tenants of rental properties are encouraged to contact their landlords immediately if they do not have the required number of smoke alarms. Once smoke alarms are installed, tenants cannot remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way. If they do so, the tenant could receive a ticket for \$235.

Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries every year. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with the entire household.

By Lorena Bressan, RN, BScN, BSc, HSPI Associate

DID YOU KNOW?

ERGONOMICS INSPECTORS TO TOUR / NEW PAINS AND STRAINS WEB SITE LAUNCHED

About 200 ergonomics inspectors will soon tour Ontario workplaces. The new health and safety inspectors hired under the Pain and Strain Campaign will examine workplaces in the industrial and health care sectors that have a high frequency of ergonomic related injuries.

Employers and workers now have access to simple, straightforward information on ergonomic-related injuries at the Ministry of Labour website at www.labour.gov.on.ca. Information for Employers and Workers includes: What are pains and strains? How common are they? Who gets them? How can they affect me? Do they cost money? Are they preventable? What are my responsibilities? What can I do? What's the law? Additional reading resources are also listed.

According to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), pains and strains are the number one reason workers file a claim and lose time from work because of injury.

They account for:

- 42 per cent of all claims involving time lost from work
- 42 per cent of all costs related to time lost from work
- 50 per cent of all days lost from work.

From 1996 – 2004, Ontario's workers compensation system approved more than 382,000 musculoskeletal claims that resulted in time lost from work. Back and spine injuries are the most common kinds of pains and strains. They account for nearly 50 per cent of all workers' musculoskeletal disorder injury claims that result in time lost from work.

Pains and strains can be prevented. Take action and make your workplace healthy and safe.

By Lorena Bressan, RN, BScN, BSc, HSPI Associate

FINES: Ministry of Labour

Sigfusson Northern Ltd. fined \$20,000 for *altering / disturbing the injury scene* THUNDER BAY, Ont. – On Oct. 24, 2005 Sigfusson Northern Ltd., a mining construction company based in Lundar, Manitoba, was fined \$20,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

On August 10, 2004, a worker was driving a "hydraulic crawler" (rock drilling vehicle) when the worker opened the vehicle's door to check if some loose rock had become jammed in a track on the crawler. The door on the moving vehicle swung shut striking the worker's arm. The worker, who had been moving a drill, told a co-worker the arm was either broken or severely bruised. A supervisor was informed and took the injured worker to an onsite nursing station. The supervisor then returned to the work area and instructed workers to clear the site in preparation for a scheduled blast. In preparation for the blast, the hydraulic crawler was moved from the immediate area where the injury occurred.

A company safety representative then met the supervisor and advised there was a chance the injured worker's arm was broken and that the mine manager had instructed all operations to immediately cease in the planned blasting area. The injured worker was flown to hospital in Thunder Bay where it was later confirmed the arm was broken and, as such, was a *critical injury* as defined by the Occupational Health and Safety Act. However, since the supervisor had not waited to confirm whether the injured worker had suffered a critical injury, the supervisor's instructions to continue working resulted in the injury scene being altered or disturbed.

Sigfusson Northern Ltd. pleaded guilty to failing to comply with Section 51(2) of the act by *altering or disturbing the injury scene*. This was contrary to Section 66(1)(a) of the act. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

Learn More - Be Prepared Today for Tomorrow

2006 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Basic Certification Training
May 30, 31, June 1

WHMIS May 16

**Supervisor Due Diligence for
Summer Students**
May 16

**Indoor Air Quality
& Ventilation**
May 17

Hiring a Safe Contractor
Feb 9

**WHMIS and Health & Safety
Overview (Student Training)**
May 18

NEW COURSES COMING SOON:

WHMIS Online

Defensive Driving Course

*Our full 2006 schedule is posted at
www.hspinc.ca. In-house sessions are also
available, please contact us.*

Where is it on the Web?

Construction Regulation (Electricity):

[www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/
Source/Regs/English/2005/
R05627_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Regs/English/2005/R05627_e.htm)

Smoke Alarms: See more information
under *Working Smoke Alarms: It's The
Law* at
[www.ofm.gov.on.ca/english/
FirePrevention](http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca/english/FirePrevention)

Workplace Pains and Strains:

Don't ignore pains and strains. Take
action and make your workplace healthy
and safe. Learn more about workplace
pains and strains and what you can do to
help prevent them at
www.labour.gov.on.ca

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for more information on our services

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