

Health & Safety
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Assess



Control

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Live, Work, Learn,
& Play

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Where is it on the Web?

Sault Ste. Marie Safety Celebration

Safety: "Where You Live, Work Learn, & Play

Sandy Boudah, Associate with HSPI met with Mike Gaudette to discuss the upcoming Safety Celebration here in Sault Ste. Marie. Mike wears two very important hats. He is the Health and Safety Representative of local 2724 of the United Steelworkers of America

as well as being both the Vice President and acting Chair of the Safe Communities Partnership.

Initially, the safety celebration was an awareness day, during NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) week. Health and Safety Representatives and community volunteers were available at the Station Mall display to promote safety. It was an information session, with the goal to increase public awareness and broaden the scope of health and safety. Last year, the Safety Celebration was extended to a week when Sault Ste. Marie and our Safe Communities Partnership were working towards being awarded the distinction of a "Safe Community", a designation granted only by the World Health Organization. We received the designation in May of last year. The weeklong celebration gave the Partners an opportunity to showcase their injury prevention programs and these programs were promoted by the Partnership within the community. This year, the Safety Celebration has grown to just over a month long event from April 28 to June 12. The goal is to enable workers and the general public in Sault Ste. Marie to increase their public awareness of injury prevention. Change in culture is a very slow process, as Mike indicated, but if we continually promote and wave the safety flag in all aspects of our lives, people will eventually consider safety in everything they do. We must all learn to talk about safety, and bring it into our entire lives. As the motto of the Safe Communities says, "safety where you live, work, learn and play". The Safety Celebration will be at various venues around the city, but two of the most important workplace events are the two day IAPA Conference and the Westray Mine Play.

The Superior Health and Safety Conference, sponsored by the IAPA, is scheduled for May 11th and 12th, at the Best Western Hotel. It will ensure that workplaces in our community have access to vital health and safety information and innovations. As well, industry sector workshops & events will bring the key Sault Ste. Marie stakeholders together to develop and implement health and safety solutions to benefit the industry at large.

The Westray Mine Play will be brought into Sault Ste. Marie by District 6 of the United Steelworkers. The 26 men who were killed in the mine disaster were Steelworkers. The message given by the play would impact any area. It is a universal issue; tragedies in the workplace will affect entire communities. The Steelworkers lobbied strongly to have Bill C-45 passed. This bill is legislation that would hold corporate decision-makers accountable for workplace accidents and fatalities. Bill C-45 will now make it possible for corporate decision-makers and corporations to be found guilty of criminal negligence under the Criminal Code of Canada (*refer to Issue 4 of Safety In Action for a summary of Bill C-45*).

For more information about any upcoming event for the Safety Celebration, please contact Donna Boston McLean, Coordinator of the Safe Communities Partnership, 759-2548.



Legislation



Bill C-45 ("The Westray Bill") and Second-Hand Smoke in the Workplace.

In our last issue, we discussed "Bill C-45: What you need to know to protect yourself". What does this have to do with second-hand smoke? Lots. Even though the motivation behind the new law was to prevent a workplace disaster like Westray from ever happening again, the law is written in very broad terms so that it applies, not just to mines and not just to heavy industry but to ALL workplaces. There is a new duty to prevent bodily harm and

"bodily harm means any hurt or injury to a person that interferes with the health or comfort of the person and that is more than merely transient or trifling in nature."

Tobacco smoke in the workplace is probably the most widespread unresolved health problem in Canadian workplaces. The problem is very visible; the solution is readily at hand - making all workplaces smoke-free.

Butt out Ontario: full ban coming! According to Health Minister George Smitherman, "our commitment today is to have in place a law within three years."

Step-by-Step: 14 Steps for Developing and Implementing a Workplace Tobacco Control Policy

- 1 Build Commitment - build commitment and support with management, employees and labour groups.
- 2 Organize a policy committee - representation from all key groups in your business.
- 3 Gather employee input - use surveys or discussions.
- 4 Confirm your objectives - Is the policy intended to protect all employees and visitors from the hazards, to reduce costs, to comply with impending legislation or to support employees who want to change their smoking behavior?
- 5 Decide on the best type of policy.
- 6 Arrange to support employees who want to cut down or quit smoking.
- 7 Finalize policy and share with employees.
- 8 Train Key people - provide inservice training so that they understand the policy and how to deal with situations that may arise involving employees and visitors.
- 9 Plan for enforcement.
- 10 Post Signage - signs should be in place before launch day.
- 11 Plan for evaluation.
- 12 Launch the policy.
- 13 Support nonsmoking.

For more information setting up a workplace policy at your agency, contact Health & Safety Professionals Inc. at 254-3752.

* Sault Ste. Marie joins the ranks of Smoke-Free! On June 1, 2004, Sault Ste. Marie will have a 100% smoke free public places. For more information check out www.ahu.on.ca

* Quit smoking 2004 Contest ... Go smoke-free from March 1 to March 31, 2004 and you could win a Mini Cooper or one of Seven Toshiba "Home Theatres in a Box" systems. To register, for the contest, log on to www.quitsmokingontario.ca

Source: 1) Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, www.smoke-free.ca
 2) Program Training and Consultation Centre (PTCC), www.ptcc.on.ca
 3) Algoma Health Unit, www.ahu.on.ca

When is Fall Protection Not Fall Arrest?

The words "fall arrest" are sometimes used to mean any type of protection that keeps your workers from falling and injuring themselves. Are you sure what is really needed at your workplace?

The Construction Regulation is very clear. Your first requirement is for a guard rail, but if one is not "Reasonably possible", then you must decide on the type of protection that is needed. Look at the work practices, job procedures, equipment, workplace layout, and individual factors which will play a deciding role in the type of system needed.

If you are able to ensure that your employees cannot get to the edge of the roof or cannot reach the fall hazard, perhaps you should choose 'travel restraint'. Travel restraint stops the worker from getting to the fall hazard, yet they can travel back and forth. The worker wears a harness (or a safety belt) which is attached to an anchor point. The anchor point and lanyard ensures that if the worker reaches the edge of the roof, he cannot physically fall over. When inside a scissor type lift, 'travel restraint' may also be what is necessary. You would want the employee to stay inside the bucket. At these times the harness worn by the worker is usually attached to the bucket with an anchor point near the floor. The worker can then move around, but is not able to get high enough to fall out.

If your worker is inside a lift, the type of restraint needed will be listed in the manufacturers instructions. By law, the instructions must be kept with the lift at all times (O. Reg. 213/91, S 149) and not following them may put your workers at risk.

Fall Arrest is needed when the worker is above 3m and/or there is a danger of falling into something hazardous to his/her health. Fall arrest is made up of a harness, a shock absorbing lanyard and an anchor point, good for an arresting force of 6 - 8 kilonewtons. It is used when a fall may happen.

Engineered drawings may be needed for your fall protection. Older equipment may need to go back to the manufacturer, for updating. Fall restricting systems and safety nets are also fall protection. The terms can be confusing. Be sure you are choosing the right methods for your fall hazards.

WELLNESS/HEALTH TIP

Why should you quit smoking?

Quitting smoking can improve the quality and length of your life and the lives of the people around you.

Physical benefits after you quit:

Within 20 minutes: your blood pressure, heart rate, body temperature in your hands and feet return to normal.

Within 8 hours: the amount of oxygen in your blood improves.

Within 24 hours: your sense of smell and taste improves.

Within 3 days: your lung capacity improves, your airways relax and if they are not damaged, breathing is easier.

2 weeks to 3 months: your circulation improves and walking is easier. Your lungs begin to work better.

At 1 year: your risk of heart disease is reduced by half.

At 5-15 years: your risk of heart disease, stroke and cancer continuously lowers.

(Source: Nursing Best Practice Guideline/Health Education Fact Sheet/Deciding to Quit Smoking, www.nnao.org/bestpractices)

FINES: Ministry of Labour

Thunder Bay supplier fined \$17,500 for health and safety violation

THUNDER BAY, ON, Nov. 28/ CNW/ - George O. Hill Supply Limited, a Thunder Bay supplier of rental machines, tools & equipment for use in workplaces, was fined \$17,500 on November 24, 2003 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

On February 15, 2002, two workers were elevated about 4.5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet) in a "basket," which was attached to a zoom-boom man lift (elevating work platform), when an upper attachment bracket broke on the basket causing the basket to tip forward. The workers were able to stop their fall by grabbing onto a chain hanging from the basket and slowly lowering themselves to the ground. No injuries were reported. A Ministry of Labour investigation determined the workers' employer, Pascol Engineering, a shipbuilding and repair business, had rented the zoom-boom man lift earlier that day from George O. Hill Supply Limited on Balmoral Street in Thunder Bay. The ministry determined the upper attachment bracket had cracks prior to it being rented to Pascol Engineering. The zoom-boom man lift was being used to do repair work on a vessel situated in a dry dock at Pascol Engineering's premises on Shipyard Drive in Thunder Bay.

George O. Hill Supply Limited pleaded guilty, as a supplier, to failing to ensure the zoom-boom man lift was in good condition. This was contrary to Section 31(1)(a) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Bruce Leaman of the Ontario Court of Justice in Thunder Bay. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act.

Learn More - Be Prepared Today for Tomorrow

2004 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Basic Certification Training

March 30, 31, April 1
Apr 20 - 22
June 1- 3

Health & Safety Supervisor Training April 27 - 29

Supervising Summer Students Due Diligence May 18

Indoor Air Quality May 19

Stress in the Workplace May 19

WHMIS May 20, July 5

*Our fall schedule will be posted
on our website www.hspinc.ca*

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

Where is it on the Web?



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intended as legal or
professional advice.

The information and
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