



January 2010

ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

	(January 1 st to December 31 st)	
	2009	2008
Fatalities	16	20
Critical Injuries	146	151

Note: these figures represent preliminary data and are not to be considered official statistics from the Ministry of Labour. Official statistics will be issued quarterly by the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Ministry of Labour.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

There were 5 fatalities in the month of December, 4 of which occurred on a swing stage on Christmas Eve. There were also 14 critical injuries, one young worker critical, 3 criticals related to falls, 5 related falls from ladders, 1 related to scaffolding and 1 electrical contact.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR - Safe at Work Ontario 2010 Consultations

The Ministry of Labour will be holding stakeholder consultations to review 2009 achievements and to map out direction for its 2010 **Safe At Work Ontario** program January 29, 2010 from 9:30am-11:30am at the Centre for Health and Safety Innovation presentation centre, 5110 Creekbank Road, Mississauga.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – Suspended Work Platform Safe Use, Maintenance & Inspection

The most commonly used suspended work platforms (suspended platforms or suspended scaffolds) are known as swing stages. They are used for window cleaning or conducting repairs to the exterior of buildings and consist of a work platform, guardrails and a suspension system.

Multi Point Suspended Scaffolds are specialized suspended work platforms that have specific design and operational requirements in Sections 142.1 to 142.8 of O. Reg. 213/91 (the "Construction Regulation"). Anyone using this type of equipment must comply with the OHSA and Construction Regulation to ensure safe use.

The Ministry of Labour will continue its targeted inspections of construction worksites where the risk of falls is great, to ensure compliance with the OHSA and its regulations, over the winter of 2010.

Hazard

The most significant hazard associated with swing stages is workers falling from height. Some of the reasons why a fall may occur include:

- the swing stage over-turning because the counterweight does not have the adequate weight or if the “fulcrum” or point of support at the edge of the building fails; or
- the swing stage collapsing because it is overloaded, the platforms are inadequately attached (in case of modular type stages), or there is damage from exposure to chemicals or corrosive material to the motors, platforms or wire ropes to which the stage is suspended, in addition to poor maintenance.

Hazard Controls and Legal Requirements

Under the OHSA, employers and supervisors are required to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to ensure the health and safety of workers.

1. Proper training

Workers working on a suspended platform or suspended scaffold who may use a fall protection system must receive comprehensive fall protection training (Construction Regulation, section 26.2) and must receive:

- training on the use and inspection of the platform or scaffold, including access to and egress from it; and
- training on the erection and dismantling procedures where the workers are involved in these activities.

2. Wearing of a fall arrest system when working on suspended equipment

A worker who is on or is getting on or off a suspended platform or suspended scaffold must wear a full body harness:

- that is connected to a fall arrest system with an independent lifeline, or
- that is securely fastened to the suspended platform or suspended scaffold, if all or part of the platform or scaffold has more than one independent means of support and the platform or scaffold is so designed, constructed and maintained that the failure of one means of support will not cause the collapse of all or part of the platform or scaffold. (Construction Regulation, section 141 and OHSA, section 28(1)(b)).

3. Proper design, construction and use of equipment

- Every swing stage (suspended platform or suspended scaffold) must meet all the applicable requirements of the Construction Regulation and specifically sections 137 and 138.
- The platform must not be overloaded (Construction Regulation, section 31(3) and 134(3)).
- Equipment must be maintained in a condition that does not endanger a worker (Construction Regulation, section 93(1)).
- Equipment must be used in accordance with any operating manual issued by the manufacturers (Construction Regulation, section 93(3)).
- In addition to the above requirements, every suspended scaffold that consists of more than one platform, and every suspended platform that weighs, together with its components, more than 525 kilograms, must be designed by a professional engineer and erected in accordance with the design drawings. A professional engineer must inspect it prior to its first use and issue a written report in regard to the inspection. The Constructor must keep a copy of the design drawings and the professional engineer's written inspection report on the project while the suspended platform or suspended scaffold is on the project. (Section 139 of the Construction Regulation).

4. **Adequate maintenance of equipment, materials and protective devices**
 - Employers must ensure that the equipment, materials and protective devices are maintained in good condition, (OHSA, section 25(1)(b)).
 - Suppliers of machines, devices, tools or equipment under any rental, leasing or similar arrangement must ensure that the items are maintained in good condition, if it is the supplier's responsibility under the rental, leasing or similar arrangement to do so (OHSA, section 31).
5. **Proper inspection of equipment by a competent worker and by the supervisor**
 - Suspended platforms or suspended scaffolds must be inspected prior to each day's use by a competent worker (Construction Regulation, section 137(11)) if it is operated by mechanical power and at least once a week by the supervisor or a competent person appointed by the supervisor (Construction Regulation, sections 14(2) and 15(2)).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – Stilts Regulation

McGuinty Government Committed To Eliminating Workplace Injuries

Ontario is improving efficiency and competitiveness in the construction industry by allowing the limited use of stilts while ensuring that workers are protected from injury.

The province is amending the Construction Regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to allow stilts to be used in residential construction beginning January 1, 2010. Stilts will be permitted for use by workers installing insulation and vapour barriers and finishing drywall. Workers may use stilts only after they have completed special training and only with specific safety measures in place.

Other amendments to the Construction Regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act provide stakeholders with more flexibility regarding wooden guardrail systems while maintaining fall protection for workers.

QUICK FACTS

- Stilts are used in other Canadian jurisdictions; occupational health and safety legislation in most Canadian jurisdictions does not mention the use of stilts in construction.
- The Ministry of Labour compliance program that ran from April 1, 2004, to March 31, 2008, helped to reduce the workplace annual injury rate by 20 per cent, or more than 57,000 incidents (as a result, employers have avoided about \$5 billion in direct and indirect costs).

WSIB – 2010 Indexing Regulation

Each year, benefits are indexed by the appropriate indexing factor. For 2010 please see the following:

- the general indexing factor (Modified Friedland or MF) has been set at 0.5%, as per the prescribed temporary indexing factor to provide fairer compensation for injured workers whose benefits have kept pace with inflation
- the alternate-indexing factor (Consumer Price Index or CPI) is set at 0.4%

For a copy of the facts and figures 2010 please send an email to healthandsafety@ohba.ca

WSIB – Joint Health and Safety Certification Program

The WSIB has released a Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification Program Consultation

Paper for worker, employer and public stakeholder feedback. They will accept submissions until February 5, 2010.

The WSIB is reviewing the Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification Standards and Program and has established a Certification Review Committee to provide advice to the WSIB regarding the review and implementation of improvements.

The WSIB is undertaking a public consultation and interested parties are invited to provide comment on the issues and opportunities discussed in the consultation paper.

The Certification Review Committee met between March 3, 2009 and June 10, 2009 and their feedback contributed to the development of this consultation paper. For a copy of the consultation paper please send and email to healthandsafety@ohba.ca

IHSA

The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) is your new partner in preventing workplace injury and illness.

The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) was formed in January 2010 by amalgamating the Construction Safety Association of Ontario (CSAO), the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association (E&USA), and Transportation Health and Safety Association of Ontario (THSAO). The amalgamation will lead to more efficient administration and more staff on the front lines. Savings from integrating back-office departments will go towards increasing the number of field consultants available to help firms prevent injury and illness.

IHSA-Membership

Special prices for products and training courses are available to members of the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA).

You are automatically a member of IHSA if you are employed with a firm that pays premiums to the WSIB in Ontario.

You can visit the IHSA website for more information about the new association www.ihsa.ca

THE BULLETIN - KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED

The Bulletin is not a comprehensive document, but the Committee believes you will find value in receiving a monthly update to health and safety related issues that will affect the residential construction industry and your business.

E-SCRIPTION LIST

The Bulletin is automatically distributed to all 29 local associations. Individual members can be added to the e-scription list by request through email to healthandsafety@ohba.ca .

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