



OHBA HEALTH & SAFETY

Bulletin



Keeping Members Informed

January 2009

ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

	(January 1st to December 31st)	
	2008	2007
Fatalities	19	16
Critical Injuries	151	196

There was a 20 percent increase in fatalities in 2008 compared with the previous year. However the combined fatality/critical results are down 20% over the previous year.

This is partly due to increased safety on construction projects but also as a result of increased scrutiny on MOL's part about the data that is being reported and the definition of critical injury.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – CONSTRUCTION PROJECT NOTIFICATION

People in construction will now find it easier to comply with the law that requires them to notify the Ministry of Labour (MOL) before construction begins on any project meeting any of the requirements of section 6 of the Regulation for Construction Projects.

A new, free, electronic Notification of Project (e-NOP) application form is now available on-line.

Constructors, employers and individuals engaged in construction projects in Ontario will have an efficient, easy to use on the MOL website to register construction projects. This permits them to meet the regulatory compliance requirements quickly, at any time.

This project is part of the Ontario Government's business modernization initiative. Through this, the government is creating faster, smarter and more streamlined government services to business – while protecting public safety and ensuring that the best interests of the people of Ontario are a priority at every step. Please visit the MOL website for more information at www.labour.gov.on.ca

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – SAFE AT WORK PROGRAM

The Construction Health and Safety Program (CHSP) does not work alone in improving health and safety on construction projects. It is joined by partners in Ontario's occupational health and safety system, which include the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), the Construction Safety Association of Ontario (CSAO), the Electrical Utilities Safety Association (EUSA), and the Municipal Health and Safety Association (MHSA). These organizations primarily work with the CHSP through various sector inter-agency groups (SIGs) to develop strategies directed at problem areas where Lost-Time Injuries (LTIs) are statistically the highest or most likely to occur.

This year is also the first year in which the Ministry of Labour (MOL) will participate with stakeholders in the collaborative process of working with the industry as part of the "Construction Legislation Review Committee", which is composed of key construction stakeholder groups from Labour and Management. MOL believes this process will allow for more responsive targeting of the construction sectors, and identification of the needs for regulatory reform.

The CHSP will achieve continued progress through effective external partnerships. System partners have identified three strategic areas where the organizations can function better as a system: by aligning common initiatives and objectives; by creating knowledge about the prevention of occupational injury and illness; and by strengthening the commitment of employers and employees to build safe and healthy workplaces.

The MOL will also embark on initiatives to address issues with chronic violators as well as working with small businesses to assist them in providing a safe workplace for their staff.

A key focus during the next four years will be to focus on employers working within the "underground economy", or those that change their corporate identities to escape from records of injuries or poor compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA). The Ministry will be seeking to hold the Directors, officers or "controlling minds" of these firms responsible for safe work practices and compliance with OHSA legislation.

During the same time period, MOL inspectors will be playing close attention to supervisors on projects to ensure they are performing their duties under section 27 of the OHSA and the regulations, and that they have adequate tools to do so from their employers.

The purpose of this plan is to share with our stakeholders the manner in which the MOL will enhance health and safety compliance in each of the sectors within the employer community.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO /TSSA

Changes to Propane Legislation

Late last year, the Provincial Government amended the Propane Storage and Handling Regulation and the Fuel Industry Certificates Regulation, both of which fall under the Technical Standards and Safety Act.

Most of the changes don't directly affect the construction industry. Here are some of the amendments.

- stricter limits related to the storage and inventory of propane
- enhanced safety equipment and training requirements

To make sure you are meeting the requirements for construction, download CSAO's manual, Propane in Construction from the CSAO website

WORKPLACE SAFETY INSURANCE BOARD – 2009 ANNUAL BENEFITS INDEXATION INFORMATION

Every year, the WSIB calculates and applies either a general indexing factor (Modified Friedland) or an alternate indexing factor (CPI) to benefits that pay beyond January 1.

The *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 (WSIA, 1997)* directs how these indexing factors are to be calculated and applied. As of January 1, 2009, the WSIB is applying the final 2.5% increase resulting from the Bill 187 legislation.

- 2009 CPI indexing factor is 2.5%
- 2009 Modified Friedland indexing factor is 2.5%

For workers in receipt of monthly benefits, notification begins the week of January 5, 2009.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE ROAD TO ZERO: A PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN ONTARIO 2008-2012 – WSIB

For a copy of this document please visit the WSIB website or contact Sajida Jiwani, Manager of Operations at the OHBA office – (416) 443-1545, sjiwani@ohba.ca

OHBA HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 17th at 1:00 p.m. at the OHBA office at 20 Upjohn Road Suite 101, North York. You are invited to attend our meeting. For further information please contact Sajida Jiwani, Manager of Operations at the OHBA office – (416) 443-1545, sjiwani@ohba.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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