



March 2009

ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

	(January 1 st to February 28 th)	
	2009	2008
Fatalities	0	0
Critical Injuries	15	27

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 – BLITZES

Construction: Equipment and Material Handling Blitz – March 2009

In March, the Ministry of Labour will conduct a province-wide inspection blitz on heavy equipment safety. Inspectors will look for requirements such as signalers and operators wearing seatbelts. They will also check the safety of workers around backing vehicles.

Here are some tips to help you make sure your jobsite is ready for this blitz.

- Whenever possible, plan a drive-through site to eliminate the need for vehicles to back up.
- Train your drivers/operators to know their blind spots.
- Use a signaler where necessary, and make sure the signaler has been trained on standard hand signals.
- Make sure your drivers/operators wear their seatbelts.
- Have your workers wear high-visibility clothing as required.

Ergonomic Blitz: April 2009

MOL is planning a blitz on ergonomic hazards across all sectors of workplaces including construction. This is the first MOL cross program coordinated blitz that will target the same hazard in all workplaces at the same time.

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) currently account for 43% of all WSIB lost time injuries. Over the past five years, the proportion of MSD claims: total claims have increased from 40% to 43%. In this period of time (2003-2007), the direct claim costs associated with MSDs is over \$640 million and the days lost from work are over 6 million.

At a time when the economy is struggling and consequently the demands on individual workers may increase, businesses and our province, as a whole, cannot afford to lose workers to injury or have them working with debilitating symptoms that may affect their performance.

The potential for the presence of MSD hazards exists across most workplaces and jobs. For instance, a workstation that is improperly set up, tasks whose demands exceed workers' capabilities, tools that are not ergonomically designed and environmental conditions that pose temperature extremes may stress the body's tissues, muscles, ligaments, etc. to the point where workers experience signs and symptoms of an MSD.

In an effort to enhance awareness and increase attention on the necessity of addressing MSD hazards in workplaces, the MOL will launch an MSD blitz beginning April 1st through to April 30th. The blitz will be highly focused and will be carried out across the MOL's four programs/unit (industrial, construction, mining and healthcare). Inspectors will not be directed to address all potential MSD hazards in a workplace. They will be given specific direction.

MOL inspectors in the industrial, construction and mining programs and the healthcare unit will focus their attention on:

- Rate groups identified as having a predominance of MSDs year after year
- Tasks within these rate groups that have been recognized by the MOL ergonomists as having MSD risks and where it will be possible for the workplace to implement reasonable control strategies without further assessment, research, or innovation
- Particular attention will be paid to tasks requiring forceful exertions and hence having the potential to create overexertion type injuries.

The goals of the blitz will be:

- Provincially
 - Increase awareness of workplace parties that MSDs are a priority to the MOL
 - Engage feedback from representative stakeholders on the impact of the blitz on their sector
- Within the MOL:
 - Continue to build on inspector knowledge of MSD risks and control strategies through a very focused inspection to be carried out at a specific type of workplace and with respect to specific tasks
 - Increase ergonomics field activity of inspectors from all programs/healthcare unit
 - Facilitate ongoing knowledge transfer/mentoring between ergonomists and inspectors
 - Begin an enhanced enforcement approach within the construction program through the writing of orders on the topic of ergonomics
 - Engage feedback from inspectors on the effectiveness of the blitz

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – SAFE AT WORK PROGRAM

The *Safe at Work Ontario* strategy is a new approach to workplace health and safety that builds on the Ministry of Labour's 2004–05/2007–08 "targeted intervention" strategy, which focused mainly on workplaces with higher than average lost-time injury rates and claim costs.

As with the previous strategy, the focus is on improving workplace health and safety practices through education, training, and enforcement of provincial legislation and regulations through partnership with the system's education and prevention partners such as the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and Ontario's Health and Safety Associations (HSAs). The Ministry's main concern is enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the WSIB focuses on prevention, and the HSAs concentrate on training and education.

WSIB – MANDATORY COVERAGE UPDATED REGULATION

ONTARIO REGULATION 47/09

made under the

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INSURANCE ACT, 1997

Made: February 11, 2009

Filed: February 12, 2009

Published on e-Laws: February 13, 2009

Printed in *The Ontario Gazette*: February 28, 2009

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR — EXEMPTIONS (PARTNERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS)

Exemption, conditions

1. (1) One partner in a partnership carrying on business in construction or one executive officer of a corporation carrying on business in construction is exempt from the application of subsections 12.2 (1) to (4) of the Act if the following conditions are met:

1. The partner or executive officer does not perform any construction work.
2. A declaration is filed with the Board in accordance with section 2.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph 1 of subsection (1), the exemption applies even if the partner or executive officer attends at a construction site, so long as he or she does not perform construction work there.

(3) The exemption is effective on the day the Board receives the declaration.

Declaration

2. (1) The declaration shall be made, in a form approved by the Board, by a person authorized to represent the partnership or corporation, and shall be filed with the Board.

(2) The declaration shall,

- (a) identify the partner or executive officer by providing his or her full name and any other information that the Board requires;
- (b) certify that the partner or executive officer meets the conditions set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection 1 (1); and
- (c) contain the partner's or executive officer's signed acknowledgment that he or she,
 - (i) understands that he or she is not eligible for benefits under the Act in the case of an injury arising out of and in the course of employment, and
 - (ii) is aware of any other information that the Board includes in the declaration.

Material change in circumstances

3. A partnership or corporation on behalf of which a declaration has been filed with the Board shall notify the Board of any material change in circumstances in connection with the exemption, within 10 days after the material change occurs.

No exemption

4. If the Board becomes aware that a partner or executive officer named in a declaration that is filed with the Board is not exempt under this Regulation, it shall promptly give a written notice of the fact to the partnership or corporation and a copy of the notice to the partner or executive officer.

Commencement

5. **This Regulation comes into force on the first anniversary of the day section 9 of the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2008* comes into force.**

WSIB – EXPERIENCE RATING

Experience Rating: Morneau Sobeco report

Third-party expert Morneau Sobeco examined the WSIB's Experience Rating program to explore ways to align the program with the Road to Zero and our vision of eliminating all workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses.

Morneau Sobeco have prepared and issued a report with recommendations on ways to help quickly and effectively strengthen the link between incentives and real performance in health and safety.

The WSIB Board of Directors received the Morneau Sobeco report and authorized the release of the report's recommendations for public consultation. For a copy of the report please visit the WSIB website or contact Sajida Jiwani at sjiwani@ohba.ca.

CSAO – NEW ELECTRICAL AND CAISSON SAFETY ADVISORIES

The Construction Safety Association of Ontario (CSAO), in consultation with the Ministry of Labour, has released two new health and safety advisories: one on live electrical work and one on caissons.

The Working Live advisory outlines the circumstances in which live work (with safety controls in place) is permitted. In all other circumstances, live work is prohibited. The advisory addresses diagnostic testing.

Download the *Working Live Health and Safety Advisory*:

www.csa.org/UploadFiles/Alerts/adv_worklive_08.pdf.

The Caissons advisory provides best practices to follow when working with caissons, such as reviewing soil conditions, using fall protection, and installing barriers.

Download the *Caissons Health and Safety Advisory*:

www.csa.org/UploadFiles/Alerts/adv_caissons_08.pdf.

CSAO – CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING LEADS TO SEIZURE

According to a Ministry of Labour interim report, a 45-year-old worker suffered carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning last month while working in the basement of a house. This worker lost consciousness and had a seizure. When the worker regained consciousness, he began vomiting and was confused.

This incident should remind everyone about the dangers of CO. Even in small doses, CO can kill you.

In construction, the main source of CO is engine exhaust. Gasoline, propane, and diesel engines all release carbon monoxide into the air. In the case mentioned above, the workers were using a diesel-powered trowel in a basement. The basement must not have been properly ventilated.

When using equipment that releases CO, the work area *must* be well ventilated. You should also monitor CO levels regularly to make sure the ventilation remains adequate. Taking short breaks from the work area to get "fresh air" doesn't work. It takes several hours for CO to leave your body.

Download a Safety Talk on carbon monoxide:

www.csa.org/UploadFiles/Safety_Talks/Carbon_Monoxide.pdf.

CSAO – MUSCULOSKETETAL DISORDERS

Anne Duffy, the Ministry of Labour's Provincial ergonomist, gave a presentation on the MOL's Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) Initiatives to the Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee. For a copy of this presentation please email Sajida Jiwani at sjiwani@ohba.ca or visit the CSAO website.

CSAO – MSD PREVENTATION TOOLBOX

The 3-part MSD Prevention Toolbox provides basic and simple-to-use tools and worksheets to help with your MSD prevention program. For a copy of the toolbox please email Sajida Jiwani at sjiwani@ohba.ca or visit the CSAO website.

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 Monday April 6th 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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