



April, 2010

ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

	(January 1 st to March 31 st)	
	2010	2009
Fatalities	4	1
Critical Injuries	25	25

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 2 fatalities in the month of March. The first occurred while a worker was installing formwork for a concrete curb and fell through an opening in the floor. The second was a result of a worker being crushed when he fell off a ladder while installing three car bay doors in an auto shop, the spring that the worker was installing landed on the workers chest resulting in fatal injuries.

There were 9 critical injuries in March, 4 were falls related (1 being a fall from a scaffold and another from a ladder), 2 were results of being crushed by equipment, 1 was a struck by, 1 was electrical and another was from ingestion of hazardous material.

Of the 9 "criticals" three occurred in the residential sector (RESS), 1 in commercial building construction (COMM), 1 in the demolition and renovation ICI sector (DEMO), 3 in institutional building construction (INST) and 1 industrial building construction (INDU).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – NAOSH

NAOSH Week: Promoting Safe Workplaces

- Issued: April 2010
- Content last reviewed: April 2010

North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week begins Sunday, May 2, 2010, and runs until Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Every year, health and safety advocates and organizations across North America mark NAOSH Week by promoting awareness of workplace health and safety through local, provincial, and national events.

During NAOSH Week, organizations can learn more about workplace health and safety by participating in or sponsoring health and safety events such as training sessions, contests and community events.

The initiative is led by the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), in concert with North-American partners in Mexico and the United States.

The Canadian Launch of NAOSH Week 2010 will be held on Monday, May 3, in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – Upcoming Blitzes

Young Workers Cross Section Blitz - May

Construction Equipment – June and July

Fall Protection – September or October

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – Bill 168

Changes to Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) that will strengthen protections for workers from workplace violence and address workplace harassment are coming on June 15, 2010. These define workplace violence and harassment and describe employer duties, and will apply to all workplaces covered by the OHSA.

Bill 168 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act

Definitions

Workplace violence means:

- The exercise of physical force by a person against a worker, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker
- An attempt to exercise physical force against a worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker
- A statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker.

Workplace harassment means:

- Engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a worker in a workplace that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome.

Workplace harassment may include bullying, intimidating or offensive jokes or innuendos, displaying or circulating offensive pictures or materials, or offensive or intimidating phone calls.

Policies and programs

Employers must:

- Prepare policies with respect to workplace violence and workplace harassment,
- Develop and maintain programs to implement their policies, and

- Provide information and instruction to workers on the contents of these policies and programs.

Workplace violence programs must include measures and procedures for:

- Summoning immediate assistance when workplace violence occurs or is likely to occur, and
- Controlling risks identified in the assessment of risks.

Both workplace violence and workplace harassment programs must include measures and procedures for workers to report incidents of workplace violence/harassment and set out how the employer will investigate and deal with incidents or complaints.

Assessment

Employers must proactively assess the risks of workplace violence that may arise from the nature of the workplace, the type of work or the conditions of work. Measures and procedures to control these risks must be included in the workplace violence program.

Domestic violence

Employers who are aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, that domestic violence may occur in the workplace must take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect a worker at risk of physical injury.

Communication

Employers and supervisors must provide information to a worker about a risk of workplace violence from a person with a history of violent behaviour if the worker can expect to encounter that person in the course of work, and if the worker may be at risk of physical injury. Personal information may be disclosed, but only what is reasonably necessary to protect the worker from physical injury.

Work refusal

Workers have the right to refuse work if they have a reason to believe they are in danger from workplace violence. Reprisals by the employer continue to be prohibited. Certain workers continue to have only a limited right to refuse.

Enforcement

Ministry of Labour health and safety inspectors will enforce the new OHS provisions for workplace violence and workplace harassment and determine if employers are complying with their new duties. Employers and workers should always contact police first in emergency situations, if threats or actual violence occurs at a workplace.

Resources and tools for employers and workplace parties

Resource material is being developed by the occupational health and safety system partners – Health and Safety Associations (HSAs), the Ministry of Labour and the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) – to help employers assess workplace violence risks and develop workplace violence and workplace harassment policies and programs.

Health and Safety Associations

Ontario's HSAs are posting resources and training opportunities about workplace violence and workplace harassment on their websites.

IHSA – AGM

HSA is hosting its Annual General Meeting on June 14, 2010. The event features a business meeting coupled with informative speakers and networking opportunities. To register for the conference please visit the IHSA website.

IHSA – Spring 2010 Seminar Series

IHSA in partnership with Employers' Advocacy Council presents the Spring 2010 Seminar Series

Workplace Safety & Insurance Act (WSIA 101): "What you must know"

Monday April 26, 2010

"Tool Box" for Return to Work & Case Management

Monday May 31, 2010

For more information please visit the IHSA website.

IHSA – Network News

The Network News will be an electronic publication that you will see in your email inbox at the beginning of each month. To ensure that the transition to an e-newsletter goes smoothly please provide Jo Steketee at josteketee@ihsa.ca the following information

- Your name
- Your company/organization name
- The address of your company/organization (with postal code)
- Your email address

WSIB – Narcotics Strategy

New WSIB narcotics strategy aims to reverse growing prescription trend

The WSIB has introduced a narcotics strategy in an effort to improve the way it manages injured worker cases where opioid prescriptions are issued for the management of non-cancer pain. The agency's new strategy uses what it classifies as an "enhanced approach" that focuses on a graduated program of narcotics management. This program includes new decision-making processes that have prescription narcotics used to support treatment goals that include improvement of function, quality of life and a safe and sustained return to work for injured workers.

Driven by its Drug Advisory Committee, established when the WSIB began examining its drug benefit program in 2007, the strategy is in response to trend data that shows that compared to 10 years ago, 40 percent more workers are being prescribed narcotics as a course of treatment and the overall number of narcotics prescriptions has increased 100 percent. The increase in dosages prescribed by physicians since 2006 is also of concern.

As of February 16th, 2010, new injury cases or recurrences will see WSIB initially permitting prescriptions only for short-acting narcotics for a maximum of 12 weeks. WSIB's new policy is not to prescribe long-acting drugs during this time, as milder options exist to provide pain relief for injured workers. WSIB clinical staff will review these cases after the initial 12 week period and then evaluate whether continued or other courses of treatment are required. Only workers with

serious injuries or those suffering from occupational diseases are to be excluded from the new strategy.

TSSA – Underground Pipeline

If you strike a pipe, alongside the most obvious safety risks to workers and the public-at-large, you'll be facing a host of costly prosecutions – from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ministry of Labour (MOL) for starters – which could run you as high as \$50,000 (for an individual), \$1,000,000 (for a corporation) and imprisonment for a year from TSSA – let alone what other authorities throw at you. While that certainly gives most pause for thought, as the majority of contractors are compliant with fuels safety regulations, there were over 2,500 pipeline strikes in Ontario over a sixteen month period, spanning January 2008 to April 2009. Couple that with two fatalities and two injuries.

If you excavate, or contract with a building owner to excavate or perform ground disturbances, you are obliged to abide by fuels safety regulations. First, look for any potential source of fuel usage on the property prior to disturbing the soil. Any activity that disturbs the soil, such as digging, driving bars in the ground, installing underground systems, etc., could damage a pipeline. Their depth may change over time due to erosion or changes in the landscape, so do not take *any* chances even if your activity is relatively shallow. If you see any indication of fuel use in the vicinity, ascertain the fuel type and source. If the fuel source is not apparent (such as a cylinder at the appliance), investigate further prior to excavation.

If a leak occurs, even through what may seem to be a minor scrape of a pipe from a shovel or backhoe, it can spread long distances and ignite, if near a flame or spark, causing a fire or deadly explosion. Any excavation activity will require a 'valid locate'. What's valid? Paint markings, stakes or flags in the ground where excavation will take place and appropriate paper work indicating the limits of a locate or the digging boundary (found on a locate sheet). Markers only indicate the presence of a pipeline. They should not be used or relied upon to determine the exact location of a pipeline. With that in mind, you must carefully hand dig within three feet (or one metre) of those markings as required by law under TSSA's Guidelines for Excavations.

Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance - ORCGA

ORCGA SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: DIG SAFE MONTH IS A TIMELY REMINDER TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

April 1 marks the official start of Dig Safe Month. The Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) and its stakeholders have designated April 2010 as the first annual Dig Safe Month in Ontario. This month is dedicated to raising awareness of safe digging practices across the province to improve safety and reduce damages to underground facilities, through local events organized by the ORCGA and its members.

"Dig Safe Month is designed to naturally coincide with the unofficial start of spring digging season and to serve as a reminder to homeowners and contractors that they need to call before they start digging," said ORCGA President Jim Douglas.

The ORCGA and its members, including Ontario One Call, are encouraging homeowners and contractors to call for locates before they dig to prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient outages. Throughout April, ORCGA members and geographic councils will be leading local campaigns across the province to spread awareness about safe digging practices and "Call Before You Dig". Ensuring the safety of those who work or live in the vicinity of underground facilities and protecting vital services is everyone's responsibility.

The Dig Safe website went live on March 15. Visit www.digsafe.ca for more information on Dig Safe Month, "Call Before You Dig", safety guidelines and how to get involved.

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 .