



OHBA Health and Safety Bulletin

May 2007

Keeping Members Informed

ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

	2007 (January 1 st to April 30th)	2006 (same time period last year)
Fatalities	5	8
Critical Injuries	40	60

BLITZ --- LOW RISE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING --- MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Ministry of Labour will be targeting low rise residential housing projects and fall hazards this construction season.

CHECK FALL PROTECTION TRAINING CERTIFICATES ARE VALID.

INTERNAL RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM

The Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ontario's law that governs health and safety in the workplace, sets out legal duties and responsibilities for employers, supervisors and workers to follow. The legal duties and responsibilities of employers, supervisors and workers overlap and complement each other, creating the internal responsibility system or IRS.

The IRS means everyone in the workplace has a role to play and a duty to actively ensure workers are safe. Every worker who sees a health and safety problem such as a hazard in the workplace has a duty to report the situation to management. Once a hazard has been identified, the employer and supervisor have a duty to look at the problem and eliminate any hazard that could injure workers.

The Internal Responsibility System (IRS):

- Establishes responsibility sharing systems
- Promotes safety culture
- Promotes best practice
- Helps develop self reliance
- Ensures compliance

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – NEW INSPECTORS

Ministry of Labour has 156 construction health and safety inspectors in the field across Ontario. As part of their training, they have been instructed to engage and assess the IRS across various construction projects. What this means: Inspectors are checking and engaging the IRS systems in construction projects to ensure that they not only have the required health and safety policies and infrastructure required by law, but that the IRS is operating and responding appropriately. This includes reviewing health and safety policies, meeting with health and safety representatives, reviewing minutes of health and safety meetings, and including a worker representative during inspections.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – CONSTRUCTION ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

- Target High Risk Firms, High Risk Trades
- Small contractors: Inspectors have been encouraged to react and correct observed onsite hazards and direct small contractors to the emerging firm strategy in partnership with WSIB and CSAO

LADDER SAFETY

Ladders may be used for light duty, single task, short-term duration work (30 minutes). The ladder must be properly setup and the worker should maintain three-point contact and not stand on the highest rung.

Fall Protection **must be used** if a worker could fall more than 3 metres. It is recommended that an anchor point be installed to support workers or necessary scaffolding be erected. Builders, contractors and trades should work together to coordinate the necessary fall protection straps and polices to aid in the construction process.

SUSPENSION OF TOOLBOXES FROM TOWER CRANES

Section 102 – Operator at Controls Where a Load is Raised

Suspension of Toolboxes and other items from the crane, when the operator is not at the controls, is prohibited under regulation 213/91. Inspectors encountering loads that are left unattended will take appropriate enforcement action.

FORM 1000s

Ministry of Labour has notified OHBA that Form 1000s for short duration service workers such as material suppliers, Union Gas or Enbridge, can store forms in their vehicles while on the site. The forms should be available for inspection by both labour inspectors and site supervisors upon request.

WSIB CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

It is imperative that constructors collect **WSIB clearance certificate or Independent Operator Status Letters** prior to issue payments for work completed. The WSIB continues to aggressively audit residential construction firms to identify and retrieve perceived lost WSIB premiums. Visit www.wsib.on.ca for more information.

NEW GREEN BOOKS

Ministry of Labour has revised and released a new issue of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects, October 2006. Available from CSAO (\$16.00 plus GST).

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 31 local associations. Individual Members can be added to the e-scription list by request through email to healthandsafety@ohba.ca.