



## June 2009

### ONTARIO FATALITIES AND CRITICAL INJURIES

|                   | (January 1 <sup>st</sup> to May 31 <sup>st</sup> ) |      |
|-------------------|--|------|
|                   | 2009   | 2008 |
| Fatalities        | 3  | 7    |
| Critical Injuries | 51   | 49   |

*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

Although there were no fatalities in May, during April one worker in the Northern Region was killed when he was struck by a crane and in Eastern Region a supervisor died when the scaffolding he was working on collapsed.

### MINISTRY OF LABOUR -BLITZ

Ontario is working towards a safer workplace for all by focusing on the protection of young and new workers throughout the month of June/09.

During the blitz, health and safety inspectors will check that young and new workers are being properly trained, supervised and meet minimum age requirements. Inspectors will focus on a wide range of service and manufacturing work sites and review activities like tree planting, landscaping and painting. They will examine personal protective equipment and machinery safeguards, and look for hazards that could cause falls or musculoskeletal disorders.

The blitz is part of the *Safe At Work Ontario* compliance strategy, announced in July 2008, to reduce workplace injuries. Keeping workers safe means increased productivity for Ontario's economy and less strain on the health care system

### QUICK FACTS

- Between 2001 and 2008, young workers aged 15-24 sustained 573 critical injuries, and there were 27 fatalities.
- According to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, young workers employed in occupations such as sales and service, transport/equipment operators, and labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities had the highest number of allowed lost-time claims for on-the-job injuries.
- This blitz does not include municipal work sites, farming operations or construction sites.

- In 2007, the average cost (direct and indirect) to employers of a lost-time workplace injury was \$106,500.
- Between April 1, 2004, and March 31, 2008, declining rates of lost-time workplace injuries have saved employers more than \$5 billion in direct and indirect costs.

## WSIB – DAY OF MOURNING CLARIFICATION

In reporting on the Day of Mourning, an event supported by the WSIB to commemorate the deaths of workers across the country, comments and statistics were reported without context or explanation in stories published in newspapers and on various websites.

The total number of allowed work related lost time and no-lost time illness and injuries from 2004 – 2008.

|                                  | 2004           | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Injuries/ Illnesses</b> | <b>274,834</b> | <b>277,404</b> | <b>260,760</b> | <b>252,985</b> | <b>241,571</b> |

Source: WSIB

The following numbers are total deaths from traumatic injuries and other immediate causes that actually occurred in the reported year (no occupational disease claims) for the period 2004 – 2008. In fact the reported number has fallen from 2006 to 2008.

| <b>Deaths</b>  | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Ministry of Labour</b>  | 45          | 54          | 62          | 50          | 46          |
| <b>WSIB</b>  | 89          | 74          | 77          | 91          | 63          |
| <b>Both</b>  | (34)        | (44)        | (38)        | (41)        | (31)        |
| <b>Total deaths from traumatic injuries and other immediate causes</b> | <b>100</b>  | <b>84</b>   | <b>101</b>  | <b>100</b>  | <b>78</b>   |

Source: Ministry of Labour and WSIB

When the death statistics are expanded to include occupational disease claims that were allowed by the WSIB, the numbers increase and fluctuate because these counts include deaths due to occupational diseases that occurred in any year, and not just the reporting year.

| <b>Total Deaths</b>  | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Deaths from traumatic injuries and other immediate causes</b> | 100         | 84          | 101         | 100         | 78          |
| <b>Deaths due to occupational diseases (WSIB claims allowed)</b> | 196         | 259         | 230         | 279         | 257         |
| <b>Both</b>  | -           | -           | -           | -           |             |
| <b>Total deaths</b>  | <b>296</b>  | <b>343</b>  | <b>331</b>  | <b>379</b>  | <b>335</b>  |

Source: Ministry of Labour and WSIB

## Reporting statistics

Reporting statistics are most relevant when they are put into context and explained. The numbers provided here (and on the WSIB and Ministry of Labour websites) are for allowed claims that have been reviewed and approved by the WSIB.

## Injury Reporting Harmonization

The Ministry of Labour and the WSIB updated the method of reporting work-related injuries and fatalities in 2005. A single, consistent method of reporting has been adopted that reflects a more accurate picture of these occurrences in Ontario workplaces. This method is called harmonization.

Harmonization creates clarity and integrates information from both organizations so that there can be common statistical tracking and clear illustration of how the WSIB and Ministry of Labour are meeting targets for reducing injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

The actual number of lost-time injuries has not changed from previously reported statistics. However, the estimated size of the workforce has. Historically, the Ministry of Labour, in its reporting, has used Statistics Canada estimates of the total workforce, which included sectors not covered by the WSIB. The reporting differences led to some confusion when the public or media heard different numbers from the two organizations. The harmonized reporting method combines WSIB Schedule 1 and 2 lost time injuries to create one set of injury statistics for all employers covered under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*. The harmonized reporting of traumatic fatalities is a combination of Ministry of Labour and WSIB numbers, updated annually. This ensures a more accurate reflection of the fatalities for all Ontario workplaces.

## CSAO- REALIGNMENT

The Construction Safety Association of Ontario (CSAO) will be changed over the next year as Ontario reorganizes the 12 health and safety associations (HSAs) in the province

### Background

In 2008, the Occupational Health and Safety Council of Ontario—which gathers representatives from the WSIB, the Ministry of Labour, and the HSAs—launched a roles review of Ontario's HSAs. The purpose was to explore how they could be realigned to achieve the objectives of the Road to Zero.

The review concluded that the health and safety system has achieved major successes over the years, but faces many challenges that cannot be met under the current arrangements. The review recommended more integrated, collaborative, streamlined, and focused HSAs that expand their frontline operations (more field consultants directly helping workplaces prevent injury and illness). Amalgamating “backroom” support services would free up money that could be invested in the front line.

The WSIB subsequently outlined a plan for reallocating HSA resources. Implementation has begun.

### The Changes

The WSIB plan calls for the following changes:

- Ontario's 12 industry-specific HSAs will be combined into four large HSAs.
- CSAO's operations will form part of a large HSA responsible not only for construction, but also for electrical utilities, transportation, pipelines, natural gas, and aggregates.
- CSAO's back-room support services will be amalgamated with those of the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association (E&USA) and the Transportation Health and Safety Association of Ontario (THSAO).
- Savings will be redirected towards frontline operations.

- There will be an increased focus on small businesses.
- A Northern HSA will serve industries in northern Ontario.

### **CSAO – HIRING YOUNG WORKERS**

Young workers are often so focused on doing their task well and making a good impression that they don't realize when their safety is in jeopardy. When you have young workers on your site it is important to make time for orientation and ongoing supervision.

- Young workers must be shown how to identify the hazards in their workplace
- The law protects all workers – giving them three important rights
  1. The Right to Know
  2. The Right to Participate
  3. The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work
- Employers, supervisors and all workers all have legal responsibilities to ensure the workplace is healthy and safe
- The employer and supervisor must ensure that workers have the information, required training and equipment they need to protect themselves.

### **CSAO- RESPIRATOR USERS NOTICE**

Misleading representation of the DuraMax PRO EN149 FFP1 Dust Mask as NIOSH Approved N95. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) wishes to inform respirator users that dust masks being sold through Dollarama Stores in Canada and other locations, as the DuraMax PRO EN149 FFP1 Dust Mask are being misrepresented as NIOSH certified N95 units. The DuraMax PRO EN149 FFP1 Dust Mask is **not certified as an N95 respirator and it is not approved by NIOSH**. The DuraMax PRO EN149 FFP1 Dust Max is individually packaged with the words NIOSH N95 printed on the mask.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **OHBA HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:healthandsafety@ohba.ca) .

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