

THE TURNING POINT

Volume 9 Issue 10

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The Vision of the Turning Point

This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes and trends regarding health and safety. The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding Raising the Standard Consulting Inc. (RTSC).

BILL 118 – USE OF HANDHELD DEVICES WHILE DRIVING NOW BANNED

Ontario's Bill 118, an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act is now in effect and bans drivers from using handheld devices with display screens while operating a vehicle on the road. *Here is a summary of the new rules:*

- Holding or using a wireless communication device (a cell phone) or a portable electronic entertainment device (iPod) while driving is prohibited.
- Commercial GPS units along with similar dashboard-mounted devices that provide gauges and displays relating to logistical or navigation uses are permitted.
- Using a cell phone or wireless communication device in hands-free mode, as long as you're not holding it during use, is permitted.
- Using any device while pulled-over or parked in a way that you are not disrupting traffic, is permitted.

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR UPDATES

TORONTO - Lockerbie & Hole Eastern Inc., a Brantford construction firm, was fined \$250,000, for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act after a worker was killed. On October 3, 2007, the company was providing general site services for the construction of an electrical plant, in Toronto, for SNC-Lavalin Power Ontario Inc. While installing temporary lighting, an apprentice electrician opened a 600-volt electrical panel and contacted the taps of the live transformer. The worker was electrocuted.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the company had an electrical lockout policy in place, requiring electrical installations to be done under lockout conditions. However, there was no record of the worker receiving detailed training in this policy. Also, the written procedures made reference to out-of-province legislation instead of the OHSA and the applicable Ontario Regulations.

Lockerbie & Hole Eastern Inc. pleaded guilty under the OHSA to failing as an employer to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker. In particular, it failed to ensure its lockout procedure complied with the current legislative standards.

The fine was imposed by Justice Geraldine Sparrow. SNC-Lavalin Power Ontario Inc. already pleaded guilty in relation to this incident and was fined \$300,000 on July 7, 2009. The fines for both companies total \$550,000.

BRAMPTON - Millard Refrigerated Services Canada ULC, a Brampton warehousing and distribution facility, was fined \$75,000 on September 11, 2009, for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) after a young worker was injured. On March 8, 2008, the temporary worker was putting stickers on boxes and manually loading them into a trailer. While a supervisor was on a break, the worker tried using a stand up lifting device to move the boxes. While operating the device in reverse, the worker lost control, and it crashed through a closed loading door and fell over, pinning the worker's leg to the ground. The worker suffered foot and ankle injuries.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the worker had not received any safety training from Millard Refrigerated Services. Millard Refrigerated Services pleaded guilty under the OHSA to failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to the worker with respect to the safety rules for temporary employees.

RAISING THE STANDARD CONSULTING INC.

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- The systems used by Ambulances, Fire Departments, and Law Enforcement are exempt.

The ban is in effect this month and will carry a fine of \$500.

Demerit points will not be included but depending upon the violation, police will have the option to also use existing careless driving laws for additional penalties.

Texting & Driving:

That texting while driving is a bad idea seems obvious. Then again, 40 years ago many people thought it was OK to drive after having one too many cocktails – something that seems obviously wrong to us today. Every generation needs to be convinced that driving commands total attention.

Trying to send text messages while driving may be more distracting than talking on a phone. Research by a British motorists' group found texting slowed drivers' reaction times by 35%, more than drugs or alcohol. A study of truck drivers by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found texting increased the risk of collision by 23 times -- far more than the increase from talking on a cellphone.

Most provinces have already banned use of hand-held cellphones, however, many of us are tempted to slip in a quick text or hand-held call while no one is watching. We need to get to the point where we feel the same disdain for using cellphones to chat or send inane texts while driving as we feel for impaired drivers. Please take the time to watch the video (copy and past link in your browser window) below which gives a picture of how, what a lot of us consider "harmless", can gravely impact so many people's lives.

<http://ut.zerofatalities.com/texting.php>

WEB BASED TRAINING

Raise the safety, health, and productivity of your employees to the top of your agenda and provide training solutions that deliver real results. We provide web-based training programs for the convenience of your organization. Please visit our web-site to register.

Hand Tools and Automotive Lifts

Identify the Hazards and Controls Regarding: Hand Tools, Hoists, Fixed, Power, Electrical and Pneumatic Tools, Guarding, Powered Lifting Equipment, Automotive Lifts.

Joint Health and Safety Committee

Participants will be able to: know the legislative requirements for establishing a JHSC, describe the powers, functions and duties of JHSCs and their members, describe the activities of an effective JHSC, etc.

Machine Safety and Lockout / Tagout Procedure

Learn about Workplace Responsibilities, Machine Guarding and the Law, Understanding Machine Related Hazards Lockout / Tagout, Applicable Legislation, Hazard Identification, Lockout Procedures.

Health, Safety and The Law

Provide participants with a working knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and related legislation and more.

Manager and Supervisor Safety Orientation

Learn about Management Responsibilities, Right to Refuse, JHSC, Hazard Recognition, Workplace Accidents, Emergency Procedures, New Employee Orientation, Transfer and Promotion, etc.

Material Handling

This course is designed to teach workers about proper material handling techniques. Upon completion of this course, workers should be able to: describe what factors contribute to back injuries, explain proper lifting techniques, etc.

Accident Investigation

The goal of this module is to ensure you will be able to: recognize the need for an investigation, investigate the scene of the accident, interview victims & witnesses, determine root causes, compile data and prepare reports, make recommendations, etc.

Health Hazards: Recognition, Assessment and Control

The goal of this module is to ensure you will be able to: understand the law pertaining to health and safety hazards, define occupational injury and illness, understand the four types of workplace health hazards, etc.

Workplace Inspection

Provide participants with an understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities with regard to workplace inspections and to prepare them for carrying out effective workplace inspections.

Slips, Trips and Falls

Objective of this training is to: understand the causes and effects of falls in the workplace, to understand legislation relating to slip, trip and fall hazards, to be able to identify potential slip, trip and fall hazards, etc.

WHMIS

Explain how WHMIS is implemented in law, explain how the law defines a controlled product, explain how the law defines hazardous ingredients, identify the exclusions, etc. Register to access the complete training material.

Worker Safety Orientation

Worker Responsibilities, Right to Refuse, Joint Health and Safety Committee, Hazard Recognition, First Aid, Workplace Accidents and more.



CRSP EXAMINATION PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Feb. 9-10, 2010

The CRSP exam has a failure rate of 40%. This is because candidates are overwhelmed with the volume of information from which the exam questions are drawn. The objective of the RTS Consulting CRSP Examination Preparation Workshop is to help you prepare your personal study plan and focus on the competencies that you need to master before the exam. Please contact us for registration information.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

A recent article in the Construction Safety Association Magazine, Spring 2009 edition talks about an alarming statistic – Preliminary stats indicate that the overall lost-time injury rate for construction went up last year.

A comparison of preliminary statistics from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) indicates that the lost time injury (LTI) rate in Ontario construction may have increased slightly last year. While five construction sectors improved their rates, the other seven groups had worse preliminary LTI rates in 2008 than in 2007. Only once before in the past 20 years has the final overall construction LTI rate increased form year to year. It has gone down all other years. Do these preliminary statistics indicate the start of a new trend, leading to more injured workers? We must not let that happen.

RTS Consulting is offering its Joint Health and Safety Construction Certification Training, Part 1 at a special price of \$295 + GST per person and Safety Construction Certification Training, Part 1 at a special price of \$295 + GST per person.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking intermediate and senior consultants. We require a formal education in the field of occupational health and safety with a good knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Workwell Audit Compliance. We also require skill in program development and conducting public training sessions. We also require 3-5 years' experience working in the occupational health and safety field. If interested, please forward your resume.



WORKWELL AUDIT PROGRAM/ MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Initially, Raising The Standard Consulting Inc. will provide you with a true assessment of your workplace hazards and required systems to control these hazards. Through our assessment we will determine where you stand in health & safety and develop the systems that will compliment your organization's daily activities.

Secondly, we will provide you with an on-going health & safety maintenance program to help you stay on track. We will conduct an annual accident analysis, a compliance audit that complies with Workwell and identify a yearly health & safety objectives/action plan. We will provide immediate response to health & safety questions, attend safety meetings and provide reviews of your health & safety program. In addition we will keep you informed of health & safety issues that effect your workplace.

Raising the Standard Consulting Inc. has a proven record of excellence in providing cost-effective solutions in a spectrum of EH&S issues through the development of exceptional policies and programs. We have attained excellence in various industries including retail product distribution, food industry, construction, dry chemical manufacturing and, mining and steel manufacturing over the last 15 years. We have managed over TWENTY Workwell audit compliance projects in the last year. We have maintained a 100% pass rate in businesses ranging from educational institutions to steel manufacturing plants.

We have saved the last ten organizations over one million dollars in levied surcharges. That is an averaging savings of \$100,000.00 per client. You will be in good hands under our direction.

PUBLIC TRAINING COURSES

The following is an example of a few of the training courses we offer. For a full list, please contact us.

CRSP Preparation Training Course

\$600.00 +GST – 2-day course

February 9-10, 2010

JHSC Certification Part 1 Training (2-day course)

\$349.00 +GST - 2-day Course

Nov. 3-4, Dec. 2-3

JHSC Certification Part 2 Training (length depends on industry)

Service Sector (office, hotels/restaurants, retail, etc.)

\$245.00 +GST – 1 day:

Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15

Healthcare, Warehouse/Distribution, Manufacturing

\$350.00 +GST – 2 days:

Oct. 20-21, Nov. 17-18, Dec. 15-16

Construction (including 1 day fall Protection)

\$475.00 +GST – 3 days:

Oct. 20-22, Nov. 17-19, Dec. 15-17

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