



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.

10 tips

To Help Make Your Health & Safety Committee Meetings

The joint health and safety committee plays an important role in working with the employer to create and maintain a safe workplace. And the success of the committee depends partly on how well the committee meetings are organized and conducted. Here are some tips to help make your meetings effective:

- 1. Set the schedule** Set the committee meeting schedule for the next year to make the meeting dates predictable. This allows people the time to plan, prepare for the meetings, and manage their schedules.
- 2. Post and remind** Post the meeting schedule on notice boards to make members and others in the workplace aware of meeting arrangements. Remind all members of the meeting a week in advance.
- 3. Set the stage** Create an agenda that includes items submitted by other members and circulate it to the committee well before the meeting.
- 4. Keep it on track** The co-chairperson should start on time and move the meeting along by following the agenda and keeping discussion focused on health and safety matters, within the time available.
- 5. Educate** Set aside time at every meeting for education, which may include talks from inspectors, suppliers, or experts on equipment or procedures, or watching an informative webinar or video.
- 6. Recommend action** State the problem clearly, based on known facts; investigate the problem to find the root cause; and recommend actions to correct the problem.
- 7. Wrap it up** End all discussion items with a decision and definite outcomes, indicating what action will be taken and by whom.
- 8. Prioritise** items which have appeared more than once on the agenda and make sure they are addressed.
- 9. Document** Keep accurate and clear minutes as a permanent record of the meeting. Include time and date of the meeting, who attended, items discussed, recommendations (and rationale), and time and date of next meeting.
- 10. Communicate** Keep all employees informed about the committee activities and decisions by making the meeting reports easily available: post, distribute, or provide online access to documents.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR UPDATES

Village of Point Edward Fined \$75,000 After Worker Killed

Sarnia, ON - The Corporation of the Village of Point Edward was fined \$75,000 today for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act after a worker was killed.

On January 30, 2010, members of the village's paid volunteer fire department were participating in ice water rescue training. After doing swimming and floating exercises, the workers were instructed to swim out to a moving sheet of ice, climb it, and ride it down the lake. Some of them could not climb the ice floe and attempted to swim back to shore. One worker, unable to climb onto shore, was pushed by the ice floe under its surface. The worker was trapped under the ice floe for about four minutes. The worker was removed but died due to being trapped in the cold water.

A Ministry of Labour investigation determined that although there was rescue equipment in one of the fire trucks parked on shore during the exercise, there was no equipment readily available to pull the worker onto shore.

The Corporation of the Village of Point Edward pleaded guilty as an employer to failing to take the reasonable precaution of ensuring that adequate rescue equipment was available for the ice water rescue training exercise.

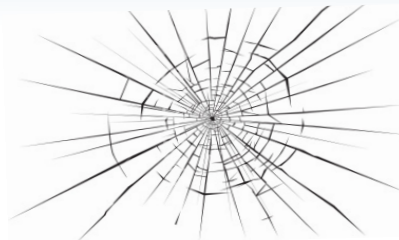
A related charge against an individual is still before the courts and is scheduled for a trial in May. The fine was imposed by Justice Deborah Austin. In addition to the fine, the court imposed a 25% victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

New Water Plumbing Inc. Fined \$100,000 After Worker Killed

Toronto, ON - New Water Plumbing Inc., of Thornhill, was fined \$100,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act after a worker was killed.

On December 23, 2009, two workers from New Water Plumbing Inc. were in the mechanical room of a Toronto condo tower. They had taken a large exhaust fan out of its housing. As the workers were moving the fan, a light fixture they had swung out of the way swung back and hit the fan. Part of the light fixture was damaged, allowing its electrical charge to contact the fan. The worker who was holding the fan at the time was fatally electrocuted.

New Water Plumbing Inc. pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that the fan was lifted, carried or moved in a way that would not endanger a worker. The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Mary Anne Ross Hendriks. In addition to the fine, the court imposed a 25% victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.



**Negligence
Shatters LIVES!**

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SAFETYblitzzzzz

MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO PREVENTING WORKPLACE INJURIES

Ontario is working to improve safety in high-risk construction trades with a targeted, month-long blitz to protect workers from preventable workplace injuries.

Beginning March 1, inspectors from the Ministry of Labour will visit construction projects employing workers in high-rise formwork, low-rise formwork and masonry, siding and built-up roofing work. The inspections will help ensure that:

- **Work areas are safe** from hazards that cause dangerous slips, trips or falls
- **Workers are using fall protection systems** properly and equipment such as ladders, platforms and scaffolds.

This blitz will be in addition to regular inspections already undertaken by the Ministry of Labour.

RTS Consulting has a team of Health & Safety Consultants qualified to assist clients with industry specific Fall Protection training, workplace assessments & program implementation.

DUE DILIGENCE

DUE DILIGENCE means taking all reasonable steps to prevent injuries or accidents in the workplace. **DUE DILIGENCE** requires the identification of hazards and the implementation of specific preventative measures to protect employees and clients from loss, injury, illness and disease.

Why should you practice **DUE DILIGENCE**? In the event of an accident or injury, there is the potential for liability against individuals as well as companies and their managers and supervisors. The liability for health and safety losses or offenses is based on common law principles and ignorance of the law is no defense! **DUE DILIGENCE** requires proactive management and corporate and individual accountability. Satisfying legislative requirements may be the driver for health and safety compliance; however, morally and ethically, doing the right thing should be motive enough to look after employees' and clients' well being!

For more information on **DUE DILIGENCE**, WHMIS, First Aid & CPR, Workplace Violence, Emergency Planning, Workplace Inspections, Job Hazard Analysis or developing a complete safety program call **RTS Consulting** (905) 840-1918.

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, Power 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.

PUBLIC TRAINING COURSES

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

JHSC Certification Part 1 Training (2-day course)

\$350.00 +HST - 2 days
April 10 & 12, June 5 & 7, 2012

JHSC Certification Part 2 Training (length depends on industry)

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

\$195.00 +HST - 1 day
Apr 24, June 19, 2012

Healthcare, Warehouse/Distribution, Manufacturing

\$295.00 +HST - 2 days
Apr 24 & 26, June 19 & 21, 2012

Construction (Including 1 day fall Protection)

\$370.00 +HST - 3 days
Apr 24, 26-27, June 19, 21-22

Sign-up Now!