



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.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

We are holding a ½ day Workplace Violence Workshop which will assist you in developing a Workplace Violence Prevention Program. Upon completion of the course, each participant will be able to:

- Increase awareness of workplace violence/harassment and the harmful impacts on organizations and their employees
- Help save time and money by integrating Bill 168 requirements into existing OHS policies, procedures and programs
- Provide practical, hands-on solutions and tools

DATE: December 8, 2010
9:00am -12:00pm

**To register please call (905) 840-1918*

Let's put an end to

Workplace
Violence
for good.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR UPDATES

Landscaping Company Fined \$180,000 Total For Health and Safety Violations

Nov. 2, 2010 St. Catharines, Ont. - Genco Masonry and Contracting Incorporated, of Niagara Falls, was fined \$180,000 on October 22, 2010, for violations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act after a fatal explosion at a worksite. On May 3, 2010, a Genco supervisor was fined \$12,000 in relation to the same incident.

On July 30, 2008, the company was doing landscaping work at a residence located on Beechwood Rd. in Niagara Falls. During the course of the work, a propane line was punctured. The propane leaked through the surrounding earth and into the homeowner's basement. The propane exploded in the basement and leveled the home. Two "Molly Maid" workers and a resident were in the house at the time of the explosion. The resident died in the explosion.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the company made no effort to have the propane lines marked before the work commenced. The investigation also found that Genco did not advise its employees of the existence of the underground gas line.

Genco Masonry and Contracting Inc. was found guilty of:

- ✓ Failing to ensure that all gas, electrical and other services in the worksite were located, properly marked, and shut off or disconnected where possible.
- ✓ Failing to request that the owner of the service be present to supervise the excavation.
- ✓ Failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker to protect the health and safety of the worker.

The company was fined \$60,000 for each offense. Supervisor, Anthony Aiello pleaded guilty to failing to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances, for the protection of a worker at a workplace.

The fines were imposed by Justice Ann Watson. In addition to the fines, the court imposed a 25-per-cent 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.

Essar Steel Algoma Inc. Fined \$325,000 in Total for Fatality and Failing to Maintain Safety Equipment

October 12, 2010 Sault Ste Marie, ON. - Essar Steel Algoma Inc. was fined \$300,000 today for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) that caused a worker's death.

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RAISING THE STANDARD CONSULTING INC.

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The company was fined another \$25,000 for a different OSHA violation after a worker was injured in a separate incident.

On July 31, 2008, at the company's steel mill in Sault Ste Marie, a worker was doing routine maintenance on a truck. As the worker was checking the battery, it exploded, splattering liquid in the worker's face. The worker attempted to use the emergency eyewash fountain, but it was not working.

Essar Steel Algoma Inc. pleaded guilty to failing to maintain an eyewash fountain and deluge shower in good condition. In a separate incident at the mill on October 30, 2008, three workers were doing a pre-start check on a conveyor system used to pile rocks. The maintenance team believed the system was empty, but toward the end of the check material appeared on the conveyor above one of the workers. The material, weighing over 125 kilograms, fell

WORK SAFE

WSIB Announces Comprehensive Funding Review and Premium Rates

Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is moving forward with a Funding Review to ensure the long-term financial stability of the WSIB. The Funding Review will be chaired by Professor Harry Arthurs, former Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School and President Emeritus of York University.

The year-long Funding Review will gather expert advice and input from workers, labour and employers on a range of public policy issues relating to the WSIB's financial future including a plan on how to eliminate the WSIB's unfunded liability.

To provide business with certainty and stability during the course of these consultations, and in

order to help slow the growth of the WSIB's projected unfunded liability (UFL), the average premium rate will increase by two per cent for 2011 and 2012.

The UFL is the difference between the total cost of claims in the system and the funds in the system to pay for them. It has increased due to insufficient premium revenue, rising claims and health care costs and declining investment returns following the recent economic downturn. Currently the WSIB's projected UFL is more than \$12 billion.

The WSIB is also making a number of internal administrative changes that will address the UFL while improving customer service and operational efficiency. This includes a Value for Money Audit of the claims and adjudication process. These actions, along with the modest premium rate increases, will assist in balancing annual revenue with claim costs.

"We are taking important steps in ensuring that the workplace safety and insurance system is financially stable now and for future workers and employers," said WSIB President and CEO David Marshall. "These steps, along with our continuing commitment to accountability and fiscal responsibility, will steer us toward our goal of achieving full funding, while preserving workers benefits and ultimately lowering employer premiums."



The average premium rate will rise from \$2.30 to \$2.35 for every \$100 of insurable earnings in 2011 and to \$2.40 in 2012. This is well below the average premium rate of \$3.00 in the mid 1990's. The increase is being applied to the average premium rate, meaning more than half of registered employers will see little to no increase, while other employers in high-risk industries with a history of costly injury claims may see increases of more than two per cent. Employers with good safety records will continue to be eligible for rebates under the WSIB's incentive programs.



Safety Blitz Focuses On Conveyor Dangers

Ontario is making workplaces safer by focusing on the safe operation of conveyor systems.

Conveyor systems are used in industrial workplaces to move goods from one spot to another. Ministry of Labour inspectors will visit industrial workplaces during increased enforcement in November and December to ensure that:

- Conveyors have proper guarding devices
- Conveyors are being locked out when needed; and
- Conveyor workers are protected from developing musculoskeletal disorders, such as repetitive strain injuries.

The blitz is a part of the government's [Safe At Work Ontario](#) strategy. Safe workplaces offer reassurance to workers, increased productivity for businesses and less strain on the health care system.

Quote

"We want everyone to be aware of the guarding and lockout hazards involving conveyor systems, and need to make sure all measures are in place to prevent injuries. At the end of the day, workers should return home safe and sound to their families."

—Peter Fonseca, Minister of Labour

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
Dec 1-2, 2010

JHSC Certification Part 2 Training (length depends on industry)

Service Sector (office, hotels/restaurants, retail, etc.)
\$195.00 +HST - 1 day
Dec 14, 2010

Healthcare, Warehouse/Distribution, Manufacturing
\$295.00 +HST - 2 days
Dec 14-15, 2010

Construction (including 1 day fall Protection)
\$370.00 +HST - 3 days
Dec 14-16, 2010

Sign-Up Now >>

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.



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