

THE TURNING POINT

Volume 9 Issue 6

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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 168 – THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE 2009

Excerpt from Ontario Hospital Association Bulletin – April 24, 2009

On April 20, 2009, the Minister of Labour Peter Fonseca, introduced Bill 168 the *Occupational Health & Safety Amendment Act*

Bill 168 adds Part III.0.1 (Violence & Harassment) to the Occupational Health and Safety Act and proposes to amend subsection 1(1) to include definitions of workplace violence and workplace harassment.

The proposed legislation, if passed would:

- Require employers to develop a framework that would include policies and programs to help prevent workplace violence and harassment

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR UPDATES

OTTAWA - TDL Spring & Suspension Specialists Inc., an Ottawa company that repairs trucks and buses, was fined \$120,000 on, for violations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), after a worker was fatally injured.

On June 7, 2007, a TDL employee at the company's shop was repairing the valve stem on the rear tire of a recycling truck. A side bin on the truck was elevated to allow work on the tire but was not braced to prevent movement. When the side bin accidentally released, it came down and trapped the worker between the bin and the tire. By the time the worker was freed, the worker had sustained fatal crushing injuries and died en route to hospital. A MOL investigation found that the employer had failed to ensure the elevated side bin was blocked or braced to prevent subsequent movement. The recycling bin was equipped with blocking pins to prevent the bin from falling, but these were not used, and the employer did not have proper tools to block or support the bin.

TDL Spring & Suspension Specialists Inc. was found guilty under the OHSA of failing to ensure that equipment which is temporarily elevated is securely and solidly blocked to prevent the equipment from falling or moving, as required under Ontario regulations for industrial establishments.

PEMBROKE, ON -The Corporation of the Township of Laurentian Valley, carrying on business as the Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board, was fined \$75,000, for a violation under the OH&S Act (OHSA) after a worker was seriously injured. On August 9, 2007, workers at Algonquin Provincial Park were emptying buried waste collection containers. The containers consist of a solid top and sides with a flexible bag underground that is opened using a drawstring. To empty a container, workers lift the bag out of the ground with a crane and swivel it over a truck-mounted collection bin. Workers open the bag's drawstring, waste falls into the bin, and the bag is returned to the ground.

On this day, the drawstring of one of the waste bags would not open, so a worker climbed into the top of the truck-mounted collection bin to manually open the bag. The worker did not use the catwalk mounted on the back of the truck, and while on the top of the truck, the worker slipped and fell about 3.5 metres to the pavement below. The Corporation of the Township of Laurentian Valley pleaded guilty under the OHSA to failing, as an employer, to acquaint the worker with the hazards of working from and/or falling from truck-mounted garbage bins.

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- Require employers to take reasonable precautions to protect an employee from domestic violence in the workplace
- Allow workers to remove themselves from harmful situations if they have reason to believe that they are at risk of imminent danger due to workplace violence

To view the entire document, follow the link below:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2181

ONTARIO IS PROTECTING NEW AND YOUNG WORKERS

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

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.

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.

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

July 29-30, 2009

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.



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

July 29-30, 2009

JHSC Certification Part 1 Training (2-day course)

\$349.00 +GST - 2-day Course

July 7-8, Aug. 4-5, Sept. 2-3

JHSC Certification Part 2 Training (length depends on industry)

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

\$245.00 +GST – 1 day:

July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15

Healthcare, Warehouse/Distribution, Manufacturing

\$350.00 +GST – 2 days:

July 21-22, Aug. 18-19, Sept. 15-16

Construction (including 1 day fall Protection)

\$475.00 +GST – 3 days:

July 21-23, Aug. 18-20, Sept. 15-17

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