



This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes & 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.

could this happen **AT YOUR WORKPLACE?**

Roofer Co. Fined \$55,000 After Worker Falls

BRAMPTON, ON - Always Roofing had been hired to replace the existing flat roof of the building. Always Roofing workers removed a skylight, thereby leaving an opening on the surface of the roof. Following the removal of the skylight, the workers did not install a guardrail system around the opening nor did they place a protective covering over the opening. An Always Roofing employee was applying glue near the skylight opening, walking backwards and lost balance before falling through the skylight opening. The worker fell approximately 27 feet to the ground below, sustaining critical head injuries. Following a guilty plea, the company was fined \$55,000. Retrieved from: [Article](#)

Roofing Manufacturer Fined \$65,000 After Worker Injury

BRAMPTON, ON - A worker was operating a laminator machine at I.G. Machine's workplace location on Orenda Road in Brampton. The machine was designed to automatically join asphalt and fiberglass materials together by the process of heat-welding; this process produces roof membranes for commercial roofing applications that prevent moisture penetration. The process involved feeding roofing material through large rollers. While adjusting product that was being fed through the laminator machine rollers, the worker's arms were pulled between the rollers. The machine had previously been guarded with an anti-nip bar that prevented access to the rollers, but it had been removed at the time of the incident. The worker sustained critical injuries as a result of the incident. Following a guilty plea, the company was fined \$65,000. Retrieved from: [Article](#)

Safety Notice: STOP USE of Gravity® Welder Harnesses

This Safety Notice is issued to inform you that MSA received a field report from an end user regarding select MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses and that, as a result of MSA's findings related to this report, you must take the actions outlined in this Safety Notice.

Upon investigation of the field report, MSA determined that the leg strap and chest strap used in select MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses are incompatible. Although the harness can be donned, in the event of a fall, the shoulder straps may extend and affect the protection offered by the harness.

MSA is advising all MSA Gravity Welder Harness customers to immediately stop use of affected MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses produced from July 2015 through and including January 2018. The harnesses are to be removed from service, marked "UNUSABLE" and destroyed.

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Ontario Enhancing Workplace Health & Safety in the NORTH

Province Supporting Projects at Laurentian University

Ontario is improving safety for workers in the North by partnering with Laurentian University to support new initiatives designed to bolster occupational health and safety. Glenn Thibeault, MPP for Sudbury, on behalf of Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour, made the announcement today in Sudbury. Projects include:

- Enhancing understanding of Indigenous occupational health and safety in Northeastern Ontario
- Improving line-of-sight awareness through a virtual reality simulation of real life work experiences with heavy equipment
- Developing tools for workplaces to effectively increase awareness of mobile equipment hazards such as vibration exposure, line-of-sight/situational awareness and musculoskeletal disorders for the construction, mining, pulp/paper & forestry sector

These investments are part of Ontario's Research Opportunities Program & Occupational Health, Safety and Prevention Innovation Program, which support projects that improve occupational health & safety for workers across the province & create better workplaces.

Research partnerships between the province and Ontario universities, health care organizations and research institutes contribute to the development of appropriate interventions to prevent injuries and illness, and help inform changes to legislation to improve workplace safety.

Improving occupational health and safety is part of Ontario's plan to create fairness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, easier access to affordable child care, and free prescription drugs for everyone under 25 through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation.

Quick Facts

- Through the Research Opportunities Program, Ontario is investing \$59,437 for Laurentian University researchers to develop and test a virtual reality simulation for workers who move around heavy equipment on a daily basis, and \$69,309 for a study to examine Indigenous occupational health and safety experiences.
- Through the Occupational Health, Safety and Prevention Innovation Program, Ontario is investing \$182,208 to help Laurentian develop knowledge transfer kits to address mobile equipment hazards.
- Since 2003, Ontario's annual rate of workplace injuries has dropped by more than 50 per cent, making the province's workplaces the safest in Canada and among the safest in the world.

Retrieved from: [HERE](#)

Disaster & Emergency MANAGEMENT

The Lamentable Failure of Emergency Communication

By John Rainford, Director, The Warning Project

Last year I facilitated a workshop of emergency management experts and front-line responders. I asked this group – drawn from across the country and representing a broad range of emergency organizations – two questions.

Q1. In your experience, to effectively manage an emergency, how important is public and partner communication on a scale of 1 to 10?

The vast majority indicated 9 or 10 on the scale.

Q2. In terms of your emergency preparedness resources – such as exercises, training, planning – what percentage is dedicated to public and partner communication?

Sensing where this was going, the crowd was decidedly sheepish, but honest, all the same. Most indicated less than 5%, many suggested less than 1%, if at all.

Such informal polling methods don't produce hard data, but I've asked these questions a number of times to a number of emergency management groups and the results are always similar. Despite clear acknowledgement of communication as a key emergency management tool, few are investing time, training, or planning for this function.

Assessment of emergency responses clearly demonstrates the results of this disparity. Indeed, I struggle to think of a single after-action report or review of a complex emergency that doesn't highlight the importance, and challenge, of the communication role.

It's a basic contradiction: communication is a core element – and a potentially serious weakness – of emergency management, but rarely do we do anything about it.

Why?

It's a question I've asked myself in some form or another for years. I work to help organizations build emergency communication capacity. Frankly, the search for answers continues, but here are a few thoughts so far.

Organizations like to buy stuff

I once was part of an external assessment in a country in the Middle East that had been involved in a controversial emergency. They were showing us their shiny new EOC as a sign they were well prepared. Fiber optic cables, banks of monitors and tv screens, tiered seating equipped with the latest technology, they bought everything.

"We have real time emerging threat data from every corner of the country," our guide explained.

"So, just what do you do with all that information?" I asked, prompting an awkward pause.

"Have you seen the plasma tvs?"

Organizations love hard assets. The cost of 1 million doses of vaccine is a lot easier to explain and justify than a behavioural change communication strategy on vaccine hesitancy, even though the latter might be more important. Just ask France, which bought 60 million doses of H1N1 vaccine – enough for everyone – only to find less than 5% of its population would actually take it.

Effective emergency communication strategies and practice are the result of processes and analysis, not individual pieces of equipment, channels, or software programs. Designed to influence perception and action, communication success is achieved person-by-person, interview-by-interview, webcast-by-webcast, town-meeting by town-meeting. No single product, act, or channel can be showcased as the reason for success.

Rooted in social science where context and intersecting variables are part of the mix, communication can feel "mushy" and imprecise to many emergency managers. It's a lot easier to quantify improved scores of participants in training on a new document management system than to explain the process and impact of a community engagement strategy or message testing for at-risk populations.

Communication = Politics... I hate politics

For a politician, communication is their stock in trade, the function through which they typically succeed or fail. Many emergency managers are cut from a different cloth, for example, priding themselves on action not talk.

Around emergency centre tables and hallways I've often sensed an unease working in the political arena. How many times have we heard after a serious emergency: *"everything was going well until the politicians got involved"*. Thing is, they always get involved.

Emergencies are political events. Choices have to be made.

Public perception and comment about the wisdom, success, failure, and accountability of actions taken and recommended by emergency managers are inherent elements of the emergency landscape. News and social media cover them, governments react to them, and department funding increases or declines because of them. The ability to communicate in ways that influence

public and partner perceptions of emergency management and recommendations has to be built and to address this reality.

Emergency Communication versus PR: Round Holes, Square Pegs

But it's not just emergency managers who may be reluctant to embrace the emergency communication function. It clearly goes the other way too, with many communication staff either disengaged or ill-equipped to be a key member of the emergency management team. A big part of this may be explained by the day to day work of those communication staff, often employed to provide traditional public relations support to the organization and its leadership, for example, highlighting good news stories.

But success as defined in the PR domain is often fundamentally different than that of emergency communication. For example, the PR professional might track social media conversation to assess how positively or negatively the organization is being viewed. The emergency communication professional, however, is more likely to be tracking social media for evidence of confusion or misunderstanding of the advice offered.

For legitimate reasons, the PR professional is particularly sensitive to organizational criticism and often holds it up as the indicator of success or failure. For the emergency communication pro, however, their focus is on supporting emergency management outcomes. The measure of success is whether communication helps those at risk and in distress to know about and take productive action to mitigate suffering & lower risk, even while the organization is being attacked.

Going forward, getting better

Core to effective emergency management is an ongoing effort to improve performance. But if we recognize the central role communication plays in your work, it's high time we embraced the function. It's time for an increased focus, on targeted investments in exercises, training, and professionalization of this function.

As the Director of an organization dedicated to those objectives, it must sound self-serving. It is. But I'm also a citizen, a father, a community member, and a passionate believer in the importance of emergency preparedness and response.

I know we have the capacity to do this better, which is in all of our interests.

Retrieved from: [HERE](#)

Identifying & Addressing Affected MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses

Affected MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses are those marked with one of the following part numbers and a manufacturing date from July 2015 through and including January 2018:

- 10151154 - 304 HARNESS, BLK, KEVLAR, BKD, SD, STD
- 10158956 - 304 HARNESS, BLK, KEVLAR, BKD, SD, XLG
- 10158954 - 304 HARNESS, BLK, KEVLAR, BKD, SD, XSM
- 10158957 - 304 HARNESS, BLK, KEVLAR, BKD, SD, SXL

To confirm whether or not your harness is affected, check the label on the harness for part number and manufacture date that meet the criteria above. See Figure 1 on the attached Safety Notice for the location of the part number and manufacture date on an MSA Gravity Welder Harness label.

If the part number has been made illegible through use, refer to Figure 2 on the attached Safety Notice to determine whether or not your harness is affected. If the part number matches the list above, but the manufacturing date has been made illegible through use, consider your harness to be affected.

If your harness is affected, remove it from service, mark it "UNUSABLE" and destroy it. Note that MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses could also have been ordered as part of kit numbers 10026061, 10026064, 10105480 and 10103470. Harnesses that were provided within these kits are also labeled with the individual harness part number and can be identified as detailed above.

Replacing Affected MSA Gravity Welder Harnesses

We recognize that this is an inconvenience & in an effort to minimize any disruption, we pledge to make this replacement process as expeditious as possible. If you are in possession of affected harnesses per the criteria above, MSA will replace them free of charge. Complete the MSA Gravity Welder Harness Replacement Form and email it to Customer Service as indicated on the form.

Upon receipt, MSA will enter an order to provide you with a replacement for your harness.

MSA Customer Service Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this Safety Notice, please contact MSA Customer Service as follows:

- U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories
1-866-672-0005 or by email: ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com
- Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories
724-776-8626 or by email: LAMZones@MSAsafety.com

Retrieved from: [MSA Gravity Welder Harness](#)

2017 Course Calendar

new RTSC is an approved MOL provider for JHSC Part 1 & 2 – Training Dates below!

Joint Health and Safety Committee (Basic) Training

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires an employer to establish a Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) at a workplace with 20 or more workers. If you are required to have a JHSC, you are also required, by law, to have at least two "certified members": one representing workers and the other management.

RTS offers a 3 day JHSC Certification Part 1 course, which has been approved by MOL & provides participants with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to become certified JHSC members.

Cost: Public (3 days) \$450 + HST (Lunch & materials included)

Location: Brampton

Schedule: Mar 13-15 | May 1-3 | June 5-7 | Aug 7-9 | Sept 11-13 | Nov 6-8

Joint Health and Safety Committee (Part 2) Training

This course has been designed to provide participants with an understanding of the hazards commonly found in offices, restaurants, hotel, retail, warehouse/distribution, manufacturing, healthcare, and construction workplaces.

Cost: Public (2 days) \$350.00 + HST

Location: Brampton

Schedule: Mar 27-28 | May 22-23 | June 19-20 | Aug 21-22 | Sept 26-27 | Nov 20-21

CRSP Examination Preparation Workshop

The objective of the RTS Consulting CRSP Examination Preparation Workshop is to cover the exam Competency Categories to help you determine which areas of the exam require more in-depth study or attention. Our instructors are experienced and have developed tools and methods to assist you in identifying areas of opportunities to assist you in meeting your goal of passing the exam. Stanford Brown has attained not only the CRSP designation but the internationally recognized Certified Safety Professional (CSP) designation. Past clients have stated that *"His in-depth understanding, practical examples and memory aids used are exemplary."* His advanced understanding of the Competent Categories of the exam will ensure you are adequately prepared to study for the exam.

Cost: Public (2 days) \$600 + HST (lunch & materials included)

Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Training (New WHMIS)

The mandatory GHS training must include information to help employees understand how to read new GHS chemical labels (including pictograms) and what chemical safety information is included on new chemical safety data sheets (SDS). Training must be in a format that employees can easily understand, and employers must document their training efforts to demonstrate proof of compliance if inspected.

Who Needs It

Any business that uses or stores hazardous chemicals must comply with the GHS training requirement. Most work environments (doctor's offices, dental offices, restaurants, manufacturing, construction, auto repair shops, etc) have at least one chemical present that may be covered by MOL's standard. Common chemicals include paints, oils, inks, fuels, industrial-strength cleaning supplies, medicines, etc.

Cost: Public (1 hour) \$40 + HST

Supervisor Health and Safety Awareness Training - 4hr training

When a person is hired or promoted to the position of a supervisor, it usually means a pay raise. But it also means more responsibilities, including legal responsibilities relating to the health and safety of the workers under your supervision. As a supervisor, you are a crucial part of your workplace's Internal Responsibility System. This is a very important concept for workplace health and safety and you will learn more about this throughout this one day of training. This training will focus on:

- How the Occupational Health and Safety Act works
- Rights and responsibilities of workers and supervisors under the OHSA
- Roles of workplace parties, health & safety representatives, & joint health & safety committees
- Roles of the Ministry of Labour and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
- Recognition, assessment, control and evaluation of hazards and getting the help you need

Cost: Public \$125 + HST

Worker Health and Safety Awareness Training- 4hr training

Everyone in the workplace, from the employer to the newest worker, has different but important duties to keep the workplace safe. This one day of training will explain your rights and responsibilities on the job, and help you understand so that you can be safe at work every day. This training will focus on:

- How the Occupational Health and Safety Act works

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.

- Rights and responsibilities of workers and supervisors under the OHSA
- Common workplace hazards and protecting you from hazards
- How you can get involved in safety
- The right to refuse unsafe work and getting the help you need

Cost: \$125 + HST

Worker/Supervisor Health & Safety Awareness Train the Trainer- 8hr training

Do you have a large number of employees/employees in multiple locations? Let us train some of your employees as trainers so they can go back to their various workplaces and do the training for your company.

Cost: \$250 + HST

RTS Consulting Inc. can also conduct this training at your workplace for all your staff. Please contact us for more information.