



► WHSC Site Lines

www.whsc.on.ca

**Workers Health
& Safety Centre**

Building healthy and safe work – one project at a time

A message from Dave Killham, WHSC Executive Director

For three decades, the Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) has helped workplaces build strong health and safety programs. We've done this by offering a prevention foundation piece – high quality health and safety information and training.

Given our expertise we are Ontario's only training centre designated under the *Occupational Health & Safety Act*. We have a long history of helping workplaces of all sizes and from all sectors recognize, meet and even exceed government health and safety requirements.

In this newsletter, you'll read about our commitment to expand our resources to meet the needs of the construction sector. From stakeholder consultations and program advisory groups, to expanded program offerings and instructor delivery base, we are with you on the ground to provide training when and where you need it.



*Like you, we are committed to safe and healthy work.
Working together, let's make it a reality.*

WHSC expands reach in construction sector

The WHSC's renewed commitment to the construction sector is well underway with a number of outreach initiatives to identify training and information needs.

This year WHSC invited dozens of industry stakeholders to an inaugural construction sector advisory meeting in Toronto. At the day-long meeting, sector participants, WHSC senior leadership and several training services staff reviewed WHSC's existing programs and services looking to fill training and information gaps and find better ways to develop and deliver materials for the sector. As a result, WHSC program development staff now hears directly from the sector with the establishment of program advisory groups to help shape development of WHSC programs. The first of these groups has already met and provided input and job specific content for the WHSC's new confined space training program for the construction sector.

As more construction sector training comes on stream the WHSC will also beef up its delivery arm. This fall the WHSC trained a new group of instructors drawn from the building trades.



WHSC CONSTRUCTION TRAINING RESOURCES

We've got you covered!

Construction sector work can be dangerous, physically demanding and subject to constantly changing conditions. Good quality training can help ensure everyone on site has the skills to recognize, assess and help control job hazards.

You can start building a strong foundation with these essential WHSC health and safety training courses.

Confined Space in Construction (6 hours)*

Construction workers may be required to perform work in a variety of confined spaces including trenches, sewers, furnaces and storage tanks to name a few. This program provides them with the information and tools to identify, assess and control hazards associated with confined spaces common to the sector.

Confined Space Plan and Program (12 hours)

This comprehensive program is designed to meet the needs of joint health and safety committee members. The program covers legal requirements, confined space hazard assessment components, methods of atmospheric testing and setting up a workplace specific confined spaces plan and program.

Cranes, Hoists and Rigging (6 hours)

This program will familiarize participants with methods to recognize hazards associated with cranes and hoists and the rigging of loads. A practical component allows participants to demonstrate acquired knowledge in the field including all important signalling procedures.

Fall Protection (4 hours)*

For construction workers, this program addresses basic hazards of working at heights including safe use of ladders. The module reviews relevant regulations and effective control measures. Participants will focus on safe work procedures for use, inspection and storage of fall protection systems.

Lockout (3 hours)

This program provides a basic understanding of energy hazards and the need for lockout systems. It reviews sources of energy and their hazards, relevant legislation, standards and guidelines, lockout procedures and components of an effective lockout policy and program.

Propane Handling, Storage and Use (3 hours)

Participants in this program will learn the general principles of propane handling, storage and use and their related hazards. A review of safe work procedures will help ensure participants can protect themselves and co-workers from hazards related to propane and propane-fuelled equipment.

Rough Terrain Forklift (8 hours)*

This retooled program focuses specifically on the needs of rough terrain forklift operators in the construction sector. This comprehensive program covers basic principles of operation, common hazards, relevant regulations and includes a hands-on practicum session.



Supervisor Health and Safety Training (6 hours)

Supervisors have legally defined workplace health and safety duties. This program reviews these legal requirements, how supervisor competence is defined and also the related duty of persons directing work under the Criminal Code.

WHMIS: Our Right to Know (6 hours)

Participants will gain an understanding of the workplace hazardous materials information system and its legal requirements. In reviewing hazard information on labels and material safety data sheets (MSDS) participants will also learn about occupational health hazards and how to evaluate the effectiveness of workplace hazard control plans.

WHMIS at Work (3 hours)

Suitable for general workforce training, this program focuses on the use of labels, MSDS and training to ensure full compliance with WHMIS legal requirements. A review of MSDS's drawn from participants' workplaces is encouraged to reinforce learning and make important links back to real work experiences.

WHMIS Review (3 hours)

Once you've completed comprehensive WHMIS training, this program will fulfill legal requirements to annually review your WHMIS program. Participants will review their legal rights and duties, all important information on labels and material safety data sheets and how to access this information at work.

Workplace Inspections (3 hours)

This is invaluable training for joint health and safety committee or worker trades committee members. Workplace hazards are defined and categorized and roles and responsibilities identified. Breaking workplace inspections into a five-stage process, participants gain new insight into conducting thorough and systematic workplace inspections.

*Participant manuals are pocket-sized, making them easy to carry and access on job sites.

WHSC SCHEDULED TRAINING SPRING 2012

Building healthy and safe workplaces. One training program at a time.

Register online at www.whsc.on.ca. Just click on the appropriate course title below the yellow "Register Now!" button in the far left column.

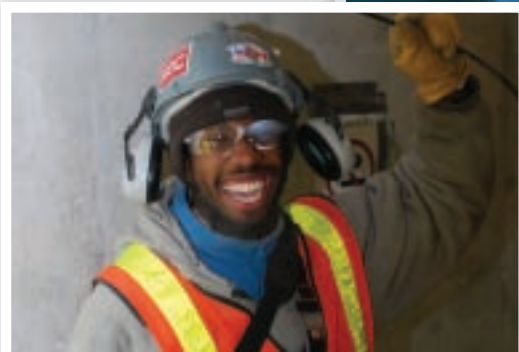
Training Dates and Locations

	Supervisor Training (6 hours)	Fall Protection (4 hours)	WHMIS Review (3 hours)	Rough Terrain Forklift (8 hours)
SIMCOE / BARRIE	March 5, 2012	March 6, 2012 a.m.	March 6, 2012 p.m.	March 7, 2012
NORTH BAY	April 11, 2012	April 11, 2012 a.m.	April 12, 2012 p.m.	April 13, 2012

Prices (per person) include 13% HST

Supervisor Training	\$175.15
Fall Protection	\$ 90.40
WHMIS Review	\$ 90.40
Rough Terrain Forklifts	\$175.15

*SAVE! Register for both Fall Protection and WHMIS Review and pay \$175.15.



ON THE GROUND

Workplace Inspections training delivered on site

The WHSC's Workplace Inspections training program is now part of the tool kit used by workplace reps at a major job site in Toronto.

The three-hour training program was delivered this summer to building trades health and safety representatives at the F.J. Horgan Water Treatment Plant project. Delivered on site by Peter Reed, a WHSC-qualified instructor and

member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 353, the reps used regular monthly meeting time to complete the training. That arrangement is the result of an agreement between lead contractor, Alberici Constructors Ltd., and the Central Ontario Building Trades (COBT).

Conducting a thorough workplace inspection is a challenge when the job site involves hundreds of workers from different trades doing varied job tasks that can change daily. Christopher Piko, a member of Labourers International Union (LIUNA) Local 506, found the review of legislation especially helpful. "When you're raising an issue it's important to know what the law actually says. For example, we learned about legal requirements for guard rail heights. This is the kind of practical information we can use every day," says Piko.

For Local 506 veteran, Craig Kay, the program offered some new approaches. "The aspect of pre-planning your inspection hit home with me," says Kay. "Getting check-lists together, keeping records, being organized before you actually conduct the inspection, is just as important as the inspection itself."

Construction partnerships fund full-time H&S co-chairs

The expansion of Toronto's F.J. Horgan Water Treatment Plant is also the latest major project to employ a full-time worker joint health and safety committee co-chair on site.

An agreement between Alberici Constructors and the Central Ontario Building Trades allows Steve Sabourin to lay down his tools to help identify hazards, talk to workers about safe work procedures and troubleshoot health and safety issues. Sabourin, a member of Boilermakers Union Local 128, was appointed by COBT, his time is paid by Alberici.

Prior to the Horgan project, COBT negotiated agreements with other contractors which saw full-time worker co-chairs on massive projects including the Pearson Airport terminal expansion and more recently completed Goreway and Halton Hills co-generation Power Plants and the Portlands Energy Centre.

Rob Love is Alberici's Assistant Safety Manager on the



Horgan site. He and Sabourin both worked at the Goreway project which made for a smooth transition at Horgan. Along with being an extra set of eyes, Love says a full-time co-chair adds something much more. "It is important workers know and trust that their health and safety concerns will be passed up the chain and dealt with. A full-time co-chair assures there are no gaps in the communication chain."

The project's health and safety gaps are few in number too. This summer, during the Ministry of Labour's enforcement blitz of construction sites, an inspector made an unannounced visit to Horgan. The inspector found no health and safety violations and his report noted a "strong commitment to a safe workplace."

Editor's note: The WHSC offers several comprehensive training programs for joint health and safety committees including a construction sector program aimed at completing mandatory Part II Certification training.

**Workers Health
& Safety Centre**

Want to learn more about WHSC training and information services? Visit us at www.whsc.on.ca, or call us today at **1-888-869-7950** and ask to speak with a training services representative.

Want to receive an electronic copy of this publication? Drop us a line at construction@whsc.on.ca.

ON THE GROUND

Accessing WHSC information resources

Along with formal training programs, WHSC offers handy, yet comprehensive, *Resource Lines* hazard bulletins on a variety of common workplace hazards. Workplace reps will find these a great support in their committee work. Supervisors can also use these as the basis for regular toolbox talks.

Here's a list of some WHSC *Resource Lines* relevant to your work site:

- electrical arc flash
- working at heights
- heat and cold stress
- solvents
- noise
- manual material handling.

Resource Lines hazard bulletins are available in hard copy or downloadable from the publications section of our web site. Follow the link for a complete listing:

http://www.whsc.on.ca/pubs/res_lines.cfm.

Don't see what you need to know? Access our free online inquiry service at <http://www.whsc.on.ca/inquire.cfm> or call us toll free 1-888-869-7950 from anywhere in Ontario.



IT'S THE LAW

MOL continues construction project blitzes

The owner of a Toronto area building company was recently fined \$26,000 for health and safety violations and for obstructing and providing false information to an inspector. Among the violations, workers at the residential site were observed working at heights without fall protection. The equipment was in the owner's van.



The Ministry of Labour's (MOL) enforcement policy means other employers, supervisors and owners are at increased risk of fines and stop work orders whether or not workers have been injured.

Health and safety inspectors also routinely assess if workers are properly trained and may request training records. In 2010 the MOL completed a three-month enforcement campaign focused on fall-related hazards. The top four orders were issued for violations related to guardrails, non-suspended scaffolds, fall protection systems and worker training and records.

Recent Ministry enforcement activity in the sector focused on access equipment, tower cranes and work in the low-rise residential industry. This coming February the MOL will blitz specific trades on construction projects and all sectors will be visited to identify risk factors that can lead to musculoskeletal disorders.



IT'S THE LAW

Engineering reports must state equipment "not likely to endanger a worker", OLRB rules

Reports produced by professional engineers for employers must specifically state if the equipment, machinery or device is not likely to endanger a worker, according to a recent decision by Ontario's Labour Relations Board (OLRB).

Under section 54 (1)(k) of Ontario's *Occupational Health & Safety Act (the Act)* an inspector may require an employer to have equipment, machinery or a device tested, at the expense of the employer, by a professional engineer. The report must also state that the equipment is "not likely to endanger a worker." The provision applies generally to construction, mining and industrial sectors.

In this OLRB case, four Ontario contractors filed individual appeals when the engineering reports they provided to Ministry of Labour inspectors on crane safety were deemed unacceptable. Because the reports failed to state the cranes were not likely to endanger a worker, the inspectors issued employers either stop work orders or non-use restrictions on the tower cranes.

The OLRB found the inspectors' orders were justified. Without a statement that the equipment was "not likely to endanger a worker" the Board ruled the inspectors were reasonable to assume that the cranes may still pose a

hazard. Further, the Board wrote that adherence to the Act's specific wording "...facilitates consistency of assessment and minimizes the opportunity for confusion or debate by an Inspector as to what conclusion should be reached based on the content of a report." The contractors' appeals were dismissed.



Want to read the full OLRB decision? Drop us a line at construction@whsc.on.ca.

Editor's Note: Want to receive more stories like this one? Sign up for WHSC health and safety e-news bulletins at www.whsc.on.ca.