

# Health and Safety Newsletter

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## PUT YOURSELF IN A HEALTHY FRAME OF MIND

It's easier to cope with daily stresses when you look at life from fresh angles. Think of 3 positive things. Remember, change and occasional disappointments are natural. Trust in your strength to get you through hard times, but don't be afraid to ask for help.

## Employing Young Workers... Tips for Employers

### Did you know?

...that if you, the employer, fail to comply with a provision of the OHSA, you could be subject to a fine?

...that young workers get hurt on the job when they:

- Do jobs they are not trained to do
- Don't have adequate supervision
- Work with dangerous equipment.

...that the measures you take to keep young workers safe will help protect all employees? ...56% of young workers reported that they had not received any training before taking on new tasks.

### Here's What You Need to Do...

- Ensure that procedures and measures for workplace health and safety are established and always followed.
- Ensure equipment, materials and protective devices required by law are provided and used.
- Ensure that all hazards, illnesses and injuries are reported immediately.
- Ensure that workplace health and safety policies, procedures and programs are current.
- Know the hazards of your workplace and inform supervisors of them.
- Encourage all workers, especially young ones, to alert their supervisors immediately if they see something that could endanger their safety.
- Ensure enough time is allotted to train young workers.
- Demonstrate your commitment to health and safety with your own consistent, safe work practices.
- Respond promptly to all health and safety concerns.

### Lead by Example....

- Attend the training sessions being provided for your workers.
- Use and wear safety equipment when it's required for use.
- Personally encourage young workers to report health and safety problems they may encounter.
- Tell your young workers everything they need to know about workplace health and safety before they have to ask.

### Bright Ideas...

- Make yourself available during new worker orientation sessions.
- Turn every interaction with a young worker into an opportunity to reinforce the company's health and safety values and priorities.
- Encourage young workers to come forward with ideas and suggestions.
- Pair up young workers with experienced safety-conscious workers.
- Encourage supervisors to take young workers on health and safety inspections to spot hazards and unsafe practices.

### Bottom Line...

- You have direct responsibility for the safety of everyone in your workplace, but also the unique opportunity to be a role model for young workers starting out. Be a part of creating tomorrow's safe and healthy workforce.

# MOL Snapshot: Textiles and Printing

## DESCRIPTION

Leather and Textiles; knitting mills and clothing; printing and allied industries

## MAJOR HAZARDS

- Heat
- Noise
- Chemicals and dyes (e.g. glycol ethers, glycol ether acetates, toluene and other solvents in printing industries, sulphuric acid in textile & leather industries)
- Falls
- Ergonomics (e.g. repetitive & forceful exertions & awkward

postures related to sewing, shoe manufacturing, printing industries, material handling, lifting)

- Textile dust

## KEY ISSUES

- Young workers
- Pre-start review (e.g. structural adequacy of buildings/floors to support printing machines)

## ENFORCEMENT DIRECTION

It is recommended that Inspectors pay particular attention

to the following:

- Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) / Health and Safety representatives and the Internal Responsibility System (IRS)
- Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD)
- Machine guarding and lockout
- Slips and trips--floor surfaces
- Falls from heights
- Lifting
- Noise levels
- Material handling hazards
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System](#) (WHMIS)

# IN THE NEWS—CURRENT CHARGES

- A company, was fined \$52,000 for a violation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), after workers were exposed to asbestos. A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the company failed to take the reasonable precaution of checking for the presence of asbestos in the building before starting work at the site. Under the OHSA,

employers must ensure no work is done that may disturb material that may contain asbestos.

- A company that makes windows for high rise buildings, was fined \$160,000 for a violation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, after a worker was killed. A worker was cutting, loading onto a cart, and moving cut glass from a cutting machine

to a washing machine. One cart was overloaded, a rear castor on it broke off while in motion, and glass fell off the cart, pinning the worker between the fallen glass and the cutting machine.

The court also imposed a 25-percent victim fine surcharge on the total, as required by the Provincial Offences Act.

## Personal Protection — Storage, Maintenance & Care

Depending on the occupational safety and health hazards encountered while performing assigned job tasks, your employer may require you to use properly fitting personal protective equipment (PPE) to avoid injuries and illnesses.

Some of the most common types of PPE are: Eye, Face, Hearing, Head, Hand, Foot and Respiratory Protection.

Each of the above are designed to provide a certain level of protection if used and cared for as intended by the manufacturer. One of the factors which helps maintain the level of protection is that the device is kept in a clean and sanitary manner. Usually, unless otherwise directed by the

manufacturer, this entails washing the components of the device in warm water with a mild detergent on a regular basis (daily, weekly, monthly as conditions warrant).

If the safety device is shared by more than one person, it must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

Cleaning and sanitizing will do no good, however, if the device is not properly stored in between uses. For instance, safety glasses or face shields which are left out in the open in a dusty or otherwise contaminated environment will become dirty and may compound an injury rather than prevent it

(dust falls into eyes from unclean safety glasses). Or a respirator fitted with an organic cartridge, left out on a work bench, will become ineffective as the cartridge absorbs contaminants from the atmosphere.

Most of the devices noted above can be safely stored in reclosable plastic bags, clean cans with lids or storage cupboards with tight-fitting doors.

Personal protective equipment should be inspected frequently and any defective parts or devices immediately removed from service until repaired and in good operating condition.