

# OHS NEWS

## WORKPLACE SAFETY IS EVERYONES' CONCERN

FEBRUARY 2014

### *Heavy Equipment Recommendations—Ontario Fatality*

A coroner's jury in Windsor Ontario ([CTV News report](#)) made several recommendations as a result of a workplace fatality involving heavy equipment. On June 1, 2011 a laborer was struck and killed by a reversing front-end loader at the end of the workday.

It was learned that the operator of the front-end loader had no formal training and a formal licence was not required.

The jury recommended:

- Ministry of Labour require all heavy equipment operators to undergo formal training and certification. As well as periodic refresher training
- Use of a signal person whenever a machine is operating in reverse for a distance exceeding the length of the machine
- Signal person whenever public has access to the site
- Mechanically govern the reverse speed of heavy equipment
- Require audio communications between operator and signaler when needed
- Use back-up technology on large scale equipment.

The Occupational Safety General Regulations has several provisions that apply with regards to the use of signallers, by-stander safety and back-up alarms—[part 7 Hoists and Mobile Equipment](#); [part 13 Premises and Building Safety, Construction and Demolition](#). Part 7 also requires the operator of a machine to be a competent person, [defined](#) (in the regulation) as qualified because knowledge, training and experience AS WELL AS knowledgeable about the Act and regulations that apply to the assigned work.

### *FYI—Ontario introduces fall prevention training standard*

This standard will initially be voluntary and apply to workplaces in the construction sector, as well as to construction activity in other workplaces. It is expected to become mandatory by the summer of 2014 and will later be expanded to all sectors. The training programs designed to meet

this new standard will improve knowledge about fall hazards and safety practices: including proper inspection of equipment for damage; procedures for setting up, relocating or removing protective equipment, such as guardrails; demonstrations and hands-on training on fall-arrest

equipment and other devices to keep workers safe; and information on workplace protections and worker's rights.

The new requirements in Nova Scotia's WHSR (S. 21.20) cover most of the points in the Ontario standard,

For further information go to [Bulletin: Safety Training Standard](#) or if you wish to view the training standard and its contents go to [Working at Heights Training Program Standard](#).

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## Flu Season

Recently we received an e-mail reminder at work regarding Flu Season and some basic actions to help prevent the spread. Also a handy graphic, reproduced for you here, outlining the

differences between Cold, Flu and H1N1 symptoms.

Reducing the risk:

- Wash hands frequently
- Disinfect common surfaces
- Keep your hands away from eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your mouth when coughing; sneeze into a tissue or inside of your sleeve
- Determine if flu shot is right option for yourself and family

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COLD, SEASONAL FLU & H1N1 SYMPTOMS

SYMPTOM	COLD	SEASONAL FLU	H1N1
FEVER	Fever is <b>rare</b> .	Fever is <b>common</b> .	<b>Fever is usually present</b> with H1N1 in up to <b>80% of cases</b> with a temperature of 101°F.
COUGHING	A hacking, <b>productive</b> (mucus-producing) cough is often present.	A <b>non-productive</b> (dry and hacking/ non-mucus producing) cough is often present.	A <b>non-productive</b> (dry and hacking/ non-mucus producing) cough is usually present.
ACHES	<b>Slight</b> body aches and pains can be present.	<b>Moderate</b> body aches are common.	<b>SEVERE</b> aches and pains are common.
STUFFY NOSE	Stuffy nose is commonly <b>present</b> with a cold. Typically resolve spontaneously within a week.	A runny nose is commonly <b>present</b> .	Stuffy nose is <b>NOT</b> commonly present.
CHILLS	Chills are <b>NOT common</b> .	Chills are <b>mild to moderate</b> .	60% of people experience <b>chills</b> .
TIREDFNESS	Tiredness tends to be fairly <b>mild</b> .	Tiredness is <b>moderate</b> and more likely referred to as a <b>lack of energy</b> .	Tiredness is <b>moderate to severe</b> .
SNEEZING	Sneezing is commonly <b>present</b> .	Sneezing is commonly <b>present</b> .	Sneezing is <b>NOT</b> common.
SYMPTOM ONSET	Cold symptoms tend to develop over a <b>few days</b> .	Symptoms tend to develop over a <b>few days</b> . Include flushed face, loss of appetite, dizziness and/or vomiting/nausea. Symptoms usually last 4-7 days, depending on the individual. Diarrhea is also common.	H1N1 has a <b>rapid onset</b> within 3-6 hours. H1N1 hits hard and fast. Includes sudden symptoms like high fever, aches and pains. Symptoms usually last 4-7 days, depending on the individual. Diarrhea is also common.
HEADACHE	A headache is <b>NOT common</b> .	A headache is fairly <b>common</b> .	A headache is <b>VERY common</b> and present in 80% of cases.
SORE THROAT	Sore throat is commonly <b>present</b> .	Sore throat is commonly <b>present</b> .	Sore throat is <b>NOT</b> commonly present.
CHEST DISCOMFORT	Chest discomfort is <b>mild</b> to moderate.	Chest discomfort is <b>moderate</b> . <u><i>If it turns severe, seek immediate medical attention!</i></u>	Chest discomfort is often <b>SEVERE</b> .

## *OHS Division Officers assist Chinese Coal Mine Health and Safety Mission*

The Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region is a less developed area located in the Northwest of China. Ningxia has bountiful coal reserves with around 131 coal mines, of which 39 are large-scale state-run ones, 44 are local state-run ones and 58 are town-level ones, in total with an annual yield of around 60 million tons which is equivalent to the total production of coal in all of Canada.

This production is often accompanied by hazards leading to vocational diseases like pneumoconiosis, acute poisoning, noise-induced hearing, fires, floods and explosions. With such

health and safety issues in the Chinese Coal Mining Industry, the Chinese government and Coal Industry is looking at the Canadian Health and Safety legislation and best practices.

Through the Canadian International Development Agency, and Foundation of International Training, and support and approval from the Labour and Advanced Education, Occupational Health and Safety Division, OHS Officer Pleman Woodland, mining engineer with 20 year experience in underground coal mining had the opportunity to participate in the China study mission to China as the project's coal

mine OHS specialist. The study mission was held in Oct, 2012 and Nov 2013. Training and technical assistance to government officials in Ningxia related to OHS standards and best practices in mining regulations by drawing on the experience of the province of NS coal sector were given at the study mission including coal mine tours.

Also, in May and November 2013, two Chinese government delegations and mine stakeholders from Ningxia came to Canada to learn about relevant Occupational Health and Safety , policies, guidelines, workers' compensation systems, regula-

tions and legislation applicable to coal mining with examples of lessons learned in Canada and Nova Scotia.

OHS Officers Pleman Woodland and Vincent Liang (OHS Hygienist) met the Chinese delegation and provided them with a number of safety and policy presentations, as did key speakers from WCB and Natural Resources.

This project and the exchange of information underscores that workplace Health and Safety is an international matter and that safe and healthy workplaces world wide benefits everyone.

## *FYI: Recent Incidents*

A brief review of some incidents investigated by our officers. This serves to highlight workplace incidents and encourage you to check and see where you stand with regards to these issues.

### *Mobile Equipment Power Line Contact*

1) An excavator made contact with a power line while the operator was backing up. There are requirements for a spotter when the operator of equipment does not have an unobstructed view of their travel lane or if there are overhead hazards..

2) An excavator with a shearing attachment, rather than the usual bucket, made contact with a power line when the excavator was being moved across the worksite. On investigation it was determined that the size difference of the shearing attachment vs the bucket was not accounted for and that the

power line may have been sagging. Again an overhead assessment was not undertaken.

3) A backhoe made contact with an underground electrical service line entering a building. There are requirements for an assessment and undertaking 'locates' for possible utility services before beginning an excavation.

### *Pinch point/ Entanglement*

An employee injured their hand when it was caught and crushed in a 'roller' system while trying to clear a mis-feed of material onto a roller. On investigation it was determined there was no appropriate safe work procedure for this operation as well several additional pinch points that would require assessment.

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For further information come see us on  
the Web at:

<http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/>

*Safety Services 32nd Annual Workplace Safety Conference*



Safety Conference Program is now available. If you would like to see what sessions will be available and on what days then go to [32nd Workplace Safety Conference](#).

The Division will have two of its people presenting at the Conference. Greg Green, CD, Peng. Manager of Technical Services will be presenting on Phase 2 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations; and Scott Nauss, Regional Director, together with Arthur (Art) Brown, Workplace Consultant, WCB, will present on the Internal Responsibility System.

*Links to related agencies:*

- [Nova Scotia WCB](#)
- [Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal \(WCAT\)](#)
- [Workers' Advisers Program \(WAP\)](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance System \(WSIS\)](#)
- [Office of the Employer Advisor Nova Scotia](#)
- [Service Canada / Français](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\) / Français](#)
- [CanOSH \(Canada's National Workplace Health and Safety Website\) / Français](#)