

### *Patient and Resident Lift— Revised Hazard Alert*

In June of 2012 the Division posted a Hazard Alert regarding 'patient and resident lifts'.

The alert had been issued because of potential patient lift failure leading to injuries to and in some instances fatalities of attendants.

There are many types of lifts. Some of the more common ones are:

1. Wheeled hoist /Portable floor lift
2. Stationary Hoist/fixed lift
3. Ceiling track complete with motor.
4. Sit/stand lifting aid
5. Bath lifts

There is now a revised 'Patient and Resident Lift' Hazard Alert available on the Division webpage as well as the Knowledge Base page.

The revised alert clarifies the regulatory requirements noted in the "Preventive Measures" of the alert.

The requirements outlined in Section 26 of the Occupational Safety General Regulations (OSGR) are now contained in the alert. Also highlighted are requirements of Section 84 (OSGR) with regards to manufacturer specifications and periodic and pre-use inspections.

Finally, wording regarding the use of slings, an integral part of the machines, underscores that slings and hoist (machines) need to be appropriately matched and manufacturer specifications must be followed in sling care . The revised Hazard Alert may be accessed [here](#)

### *FYI: Ontario Court of Appeal reverses 2009 accident reporting ruling.*

In 2007 a guest at Blue Mountain Resort died in the swimming pool.

An inspector issued an order to the resort for failing to report the accident/fatality; noting the pool was a workplace. The resort appealed the order and in 2009 the Ontario La-

bour Relations Board upheld the order.

The Resort appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal and in February of this year the decision of the Board was reversed

The Appeal Court noted "the Ministry must

be notified of a death or critical injury at a site, and the requisite report provided, where there is some reasonable nexus between the hazard giving rise to the death or critical injury and a realistic risk to worker safety at a workplace. The complete ruling provides interesting reading

and may be accessed [here](#).

As an Ontario Court of Appeal decision, it is not legally binding on activities in Nova Scotia.

Section 63 of the [NS OH&S Act](#) outlines the requirements for accident reporting in Nova Scotia.

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## Recent Incidents from Across Canada

A brief synopsis of workplace incidents reported from across Canada. They are presented so as to raise awareness of potentially similar issues at your workplace.

### [WorkSafe BC](#)

#### [Laceration/cut](#)

A worker received a deep laceration from a saw blade when struck by a reciprocating saw fell about 10 feet off a ladder. Remember to ensure that any tools that are being used at heights are not accidentally dropped; or ensure there are no workers directly below the

work area where tools, equipment is being used.

#### [Exposure to chemical cleaning substance](#)

Cleaning solution struck a worker in the face when the plastic container it was in exploded in the janitor room; another container of same product was found to be under pressure. Follow manufacturer recommendations/MSDS sheets for safely storing products. Carry out regular spot checks of storage area to catch potential problems early.

#### [Cut to hand](#)

Worker using a miter saw received a sever cut to the hand when the sweater they were wearing caught in the bald and pulled their hand towards the saw. Be aware of any loose clothing when using or working near machinery and tools.

### [Manitoba—SafeManitoba](#)

#### [Laceration/cuts](#)

While cutting flaps off a cardboard box a worker sustained a cut to their left forearm. Consider possible hand protection and cut resistant clothing. Also consider the type of box-knife being used.

### [New Brunswick—](#)

#### [WorksafeNB](#)

#### [Inhalation propane gas fumes](#)

16 workers were exposed to fumes from a propane lift truck being used in an enclosed area. Ensure proper ventilation is available when using any internal combustion engine in enclosed workplaces

#### [Crushing Injury](#)

A worker was caught and crushed between a client vehicle and delivery vehicle in hardware store warehouse. Ensure proper traffic flow or restrict customer traffic where warehouse staff are working.

## FYI—Farm Safe Forum Brings Ag Safety Training Opportunity to Truro

**agsafetyweek.ca**  
March 10 to 16, 2013 | #casw



**Get with the Plan!**

Excerpted from Feb 22, 2103 News Release.

On Wednesday, March 13, 2013, CASA, CFA, and FCC are teaming up with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Farm Safety Nova Scotia to host *FarmSafe Forum*, a free, one-day event featuring an on-farm inspection training workshop as well as farm safety presentations from Nova Scotia producers. The event takes place in conjunction with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (March 10 to 16, 2013).

CASA is already working with over a dozen farmers in Nova Scotia as part of a field testing project to help producers implement the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business risk-management tool that enables farmers to develop their own customized farm safety plans. Many of these producers will be taking part in the *FarmSafe Forum* as part of that field test, in addition to other area farmers, students, and safety supporters. Forum participants will also hear from local

farmers and safety advocates on topics such as dealing with farm injuries or taking action on safety.

This year, the theme for CASW is "Get with the Plan!" and encourages farmers to develop written health and safety plans.

For more information about CASW or *FarmSafe Forum* events, or to access CASW media kits, go to [www.agsafetyweek.ca](http://www.agsafetyweek.ca).

The program for the March 13 Nova Scotia Farm Safe Program may be accessed here:

[Nova Scotia Farm Safe Program](#)

The above link also has contact information regarding registering as well as a link for on-line registration. Note the site highlights that space is limited and encourages early registration.

## National Video Contest

On the heels of the Oscar awards, unleash your creativity and possibly win cash prizes.

Create a 2 minute original video capturing the importance of workplace rights and responsibilities.

The focus may be on workplace safety, employment standards (fair wages etc.) or whatever you may feel strongly about.

Entries may be submitted to April 5th.

### Who Can Enter?

There are 2 categories:

- High school student—enter the Nova Scotia contest and possibly win \$1,000 for yourself and \$1,000 for your school

- 18-24 and NOT in high school, enter the national contest and possibly win up to \$3,000

The top videos from both categories will be uploaded and viewed by Canadians from coast to coast in May 2013 for Fan Favourite voting.

### Entering:

#### High school

- Read [contest rules](#)
- Make video
- Complete [entry form](#)
- Submit entry form by April 5 2013

#### 18-24

- Full contest rules and entry form are available [here](#)

For Department webpage on this contest go to [It's Your Job](#)



## Get ready for your close-up.



If making videos is your thing, this national contest is your chance to win big time! Just create an original, two-minute video capturing the importance of workplace rights and responsibilities or safety on the job! Upload your entry before Apr. 5, 2013.

[novascotia.ca/itsyourjob](http://novascotia.ca/itsyourjob)



## FYI—Recent Orders

A short and non-exhaustive recap of orders written by Officers. This serves to highlight common orders—check to see where you stand with regards to these issues.

- ◆ First Aid training and kit — particularly S 5(1) “Where a full time employee is employed in any type of employment that regularly requires the employee to work where there is no one available who could administer first aid or summon assistance within a reasonable length of time, the employee shall hold a valid emergency first aid certificate” and S 7(2) Where a vehicle, boat or aircraft is regularly used to transport only the driver of that vehicle, boat or aircraft, the employer of the driver shall ensure that the vehicle, boat or aircraft has at least a Number 1 First Aid Kit.
- ◆ WHMIS—training and MSDS sheet updates. Employers often have the MSD sheets, but forget that S. 13 (5)(b) requires sheets are updated at least every 3 years
- ◆ Inspections of Hoists and Lifts—in particular the requirement for annual inspection (inspection requirements are noted in S. 72 through 76)
- ◆ Fire Extinguishers—maintained and serviced according to manufacturer specifications in particular not inspected annually.
- ◆ Housekeeping—storage areas with material or product blocking aisle ways or stacked precariously
- ◆ Electrical rooms—being used as storage
- ◆ Working to close to energized lines—either not having a safe work clearance from the utility or not following the safe work clearance issued by the utility
- ◆ Temporary Workplace Traffic Control—incorrect or inadequate set-up as outlined in the Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual. Also several orders for persons not using the ‘updated’ manual
- ◆ Portable Ladders—wrong grade of CSA ladder. Grade 3 portable ladders are not to be used

**LABOUR AND ADVANCED  
EDUCATION**

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For further information come see us on  
the Web at:

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

or our OHS Knowledgebase  
[Knowledgebase](#)



Safety Services Nova Scotia's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Health, Safety and Environment Conference and Safety Showcase takes place March 20-21, 2013, at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax.

The theme is "Safety Within, Success Throughout"---the impact that one person can have on their workplace safety culture. Click here to view the [Conference Program](#) (pdf format)

Questions? Contact Safety Services NS at 902-454-9621 or email [Contact@safetyservicesns.ca](mailto:Contact@safetyservicesns.ca)

*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](#)

**On April 1, 2013  
Nova Scotia's  
minimum wage rates  
will increase.**

**The minimum wage will go up  
from \$10.00 to \$10.30 per hour.**

**The minimum wage for  
inexperienced workers will rise  
from \$9.50 to \$9.80 per hour.**

Employees can be paid the inexperienced rate only if they have worked for the employer for less than three months and have less than three months total experience with that kind of work.

**For more information please phone,  
424-4311 (Halifax)  
1-888-315-0110 (Toll Free)**

**NOVA SCOTIA**

[www.gov.ns.ca/lae/employmentrights/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/lae/employmentrights/)