

# OHS NEWS

## WORKPLACE SAFETY IS EVERYONES' CONCERN

NOVEMBER 2013

### *Seasonal Hazards—plan now.*

Colder weather is on its way; and with it comes a series of potential hazards that will need to be addressed. What better time to consider these seasonal hazards than now, before they occur and you are left trying to play catch-up.

If you have workers who work outdoors throughout the winter this is would be the time to prepare or revise safe work procedures and make sure everyone is aware of them and understands them. While there are no specific 'working in cold environment' regulations, an employer has the duty and responsibility to consider workplace hazards and eliminate or control them.

As noted, one way to do this is to develop written safe work procedures in consultation with the JOHS committee or HS rep (if present) or with employees. The procedures should list the hazards and then list preventive measure to eliminate or control them.

Even if you don't have workers who are outside you will need to consider items such as: snow and ice removal from parking lots and walkways; entry way floors being wet and slippery; the possibility of portable heaters (under office desks); and cold and flu.

The Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) site has additional information and resources. Here are links to 3 of their pages dealing with cold environments: [Working in the Cold](#); [Cold Environments General](#); [Health Effects and First Aid](#)

These sites, [virtualmedicalcentre.com](#) and OHS Canada have suggestions for [Cold and Flu Prevention at Work](#), [Colds and the Flu: Caution Virus at Work](#) respectively.

Please be prepared!

### *Drive for a living?*

Do you drive for a living; or employ people who drive? Then you know that driver fatigue is a big concern.

There is a new resource available which provides information and training in how you can manage driver fatigue.

The [North American Fatigue Management](#)

[Program](#) was developed by Canadian and American regulators, carriers and researchers.

In a nutshell the NAFMP is a voluntary, interactive web-based educational and training program developed to provide commercial vehicle drivers and carriers an awareness of the factors that contrib-

ute to fatigue. Drivers are able to participate in the program independent of the carrier they work for.

What you will find in the NAFMP:

- Dedicated website
- 10 learning modules
- Implementation manual
- Business Case and return on invest-

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ment calculator

- On-line learning management system, with chapter quizzes and module exams

Materials are available in both English and French.

[NAFMP](#)— English homepage  
[PNAGE](#)—French Homepage

## *AWARE—NS: Hazard Alert, Unsafe Hand Sanitizer*

The following is taken from an AWARE+NS e-mail dated October 25.

Health Canada, and the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario are working together regarding two deaths associated with the ingestion of ‘Bodico Hand Sanitizer’.

Health Canada reminds consumers that the labels of hand sanitizers advise external use only and never to be taken internally.

Testing of two bottles of ‘Bodico Hand Sanitizer’

associated with the fatalities, by Ontario’s Centre of Forensic Sciences, found the product contained ‘methanol’, an undeclared ingredient, and not ethyl alcohol, the active ingredient listed on the labels.

Methanol is a highly toxic alcohol that if ingested can cause blindness or death. High amounts of methanol applied to the skin can cause irritation and inflammation.

Health Canada is working with the maker of Bodico Hand Sanitizer and is in the

process of independently testing additional samples of the product.

Initial results have shown methanol to be present in the following products:

- Bodico Hand Sanitizer (8 fl oz, Lot B9002), and
- Bodico Hand Sanitizer with Aloe and Vitamin E (8 fl oz, Lot B9001).

Health Canada is working with the maker on implementing a recall of these products.

For more information on this alert:

[Healthy Canadians](#) (English)

[Canadiens en santé](#) (French)

For all recalls and safety alerts issued by Health Canada go to:

[Health Canadians](#) (English)

[Canadiens en santé](#) (French)

## *Recent Incidents*

A selection of recent workplace incidents investigated by OHS Officers. They are presented to raise awareness of potentially similar issues at your workplace.

### *Electrical Contact*

The boom of a concrete pumper truck made contact with a 14,000 volt overhead line. No injuries occurred and the line was not brought to the ground. On investigation it was determined that a hazard assessment had been done and a Clearance Report was obtained from NS Power. However, contrary to the Clearance Report a ‘spotter’ was not in place.

### *Person Contact with Equipment*

An employee received injuries while working on a production line. The workers smock became entangled in a pulley, causing her hand to be pulled into the machine. On investigation it was noted the pulley was not guarded and the person had not received training/instruction about working on this particular production line.

### *Accidental ‘Runaway’ Mobile Equipment*

A front end loader went over an embankment when it rolled backwards down a slight grade. On investigation it was noted the emergency brake had been released prior to starting the engine. The vehicle was parked on a slight grade and began to roll backwards and onto a much

steeper grade and eventually over an embankment.

### *Struck by equipment*

An employee was struck by an excavator bucket when it came detached from the excavator. On investigation it was noted that the bucket did not appear to fully connect with the machine when the operator tried to do so. As a practice the operator determines connection ‘by feel’ and therefore was unaware pins had not been secured. This practice is now changed to require a visual verification that couplings are engaged prior to operation.

### *Fall Protection*

Several instances of persons working on roof with inadequate or no fall protection. Officers are encountering many sites with person working on roofs or at heights without the appropriate fall protection. Most recently persons working on roofs have been seen wearing fall protection harnesses but they are not actually clipped into anchor points.

### *Scaffolding*

Several instances of scaffolds being erected with either missing or damaged components.

## *FYI—Eye Safety Workshops are back*

Free eye safety workshops are back.

The workshops are a result of a partnership between the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia, Department of Labour and Advanced Education and the Nova Scotia Community Colleges.

There are more than 1,400 eye injuries reported in Nova Scotia each year. Register to attend one of the workshops and help to prevent eye injuries.

The locations and dates are as follows:

- Nov 25, 1 to 2:30 pm. Springhill, NSCC Cumberland Campus
- Nov 26, 8:30 to 10:00 am. Port Hawkesbury, NSCC Strait Area Campus
- Nov 27, 8:30 to 10:00 am. Middleton, NSCC Middleton Campus
- Nov 28, 8:30 to 10:00 am. Shelburne, NSCC Shelburne Campus
- Nov 29, 8:30 to 10:00 am. Dartmouth, NSCC Waterfront Campus.

To register online go to:

[CNIB Workshops](http://www.cnib.ca/workshops)



**M**ORE THAN 1,400 WORKPLACE EYE INJURIES are reported in Nova Scotia each year. A few devastating seconds is all it takes to go from 20/20 vision to no vision when protective eye wear isn't worn. The impact of eye injuries is significant for workplaces, and life altering for injured workers and their families.

Are you protected?

You can attend one of the **FREE** eye safety workshops being offered around the province for employers, small business owners and operators, workers, and students. To learn more about what you can do to prevent eye injury, register online at [www.wcb.ns.ca/CNIBworkshops](http://www.wcb.ns.ca/CNIBworkshops) for the workshop of your choice.

Springhill	NSCC Cumberland Campus	1:00-2:30 pm	November 25
Port Hawkesbury	NSCC Strait Area Campus	8:30-10:00 am	November 26
Middleton	NSCC Middleton Campus	8:30-10:00 am	November 27
Shelburne	NSCC Shelburne Campus	8:30-10:00 am	November 28
Dartmouth	NSCC Waterfront Campus	8:30-10:00 am	November 29






## *FYI—Entanglement Fatality: Iowa cattle farmer*

The following is an excerpt from [Nov 4/2013 Safety Smart Newsletter](#) a Bongarde publication. Original source material from Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program: Case Report 04/A060.

Loose clothing caught in a rotating shaft of a conveyor belt was the cause of a cattle farmer's death.

The victim was in the feed shed adding cracked corn to ground corn that was then taken by conveyor belt to the outside feed bunk.

The conveyors and controls were set-up in such a way that required the farmer to crouch down and walk under the conveyor several times. It was while ducking under that the collar of his coat caught in the rotating shaft.

In Nova Scotia, Part 8 "Mechanical Safety", of the [Occupational Safety General Regulations](#) has several requirements for guarding around rotating shafts and moving mechanical parts.

The requirements deal with:

- General provisions
- Contact with machines
- Safeguards
- Starting and stopping machines

There are also several specific sections dealing with: chainsaws, conveyors, tire repair and mounting, abrasive wheels and grinders among others.

**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](#)

### *FYI—Forklift Video*

*Note: the Division does not endorse any particular manufacturer. We highlight web pages or sites, as we come across them, for general information that may be useful to all workplace parties.*

Mitsubishi Forklift Briefing has a (YouTube) library of videos highlighting items **to not do** while operating forklifts—"[Don't do this!](#)"

To quote the site: "Our collection of YouTube videos allows you to witness just how quickly things can go wrong and gives you insight into how best to avoid similar problems in the future."

### *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](#)

### *FYI—Mainstay Awards*

The 5th Annual Mainstay Awards will be announced in May 2014. Nominations for 17 awards in 8 categories are now open with a January 15, 2014 deadline.

Mainstay Awards are presented by the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia and the Department of Labour and Advanced Education.

Award Categories include:

- Safety Award of Excellence—Organization
- Safety Award of Excellence—

Individual

- Safety Transformation
- Safety Award for Small Business
- Individual Safety Champion
- Employer Safety Champion
- Employer Return to Work Champion
- Health and Safety Educator.

For more information and nomination guidelines please go to the following site:

[Mainstay—excellence in workplace safety](#)