Fall Traffic Safety

With summer vacation being over for students and many adults, road traffic will once again be on the rise. All drivers, whether travelling to and from work or driving for a living need to be prepared and alert.

Some things to consider:

- Pay particular attention in school zone and crosswalks. Remember, where the approaching speed limit is 50 km/h the speed limit in a school zones has been reduced to 30 km/h (Safer School Zone Q&A). Fines are double for speeding in a school zone.
- There will be increased road traffic in morning and evening commutes. School buses will be on the road once again. Remember to stop in both direction when a school bus has flashing red lights.
- Pay attention to crosswalks; there will be increased pedestrian traffic as well. Come to a full stop at the crosswalks. Also there will likely be increased bicycle traffic.
- Construction, both road and building, continues through the fall so pay attention to any traffic control signs and signalers. Also be aware of and obey crossing-guards.
- Don’t use hand held phones while driving. Aside from cell phones be aware of other distractions to your driving, such as: gps units, eating or drinking while driving, passengers, children, radio, pets. For information on distractions and other road safety matters please see the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal booklet Road Safety: It’s everyone’s responsibility.

CCOHS Forum IV; October 29 and 30

This 2 day national event is coming to the Marriott Harbourfront.

CCOHS bills this as a tripartite event, bringing in subject matter experts from workers, employers and government.

Forum III was held in Gatineau, Quebec; and a summary report is available.

This presents an opportunity for participants to work towards solutions for total health solutions.

Some of the topics at this event are: breaking the cycle of violence in the workplace; towards a health workplace—psychosocial issues at work, bullying at work.

The forum will have small group workshops on each day; allowing participants to discuss and identify possible solutions centered on the key topic areas.

In addition participants will be asked (over the course of the two days) to identify their top challenges and questions that will be addressed by experts representing employers and labour organizations via a panel discussion.

Upcoming/Current Events:

- Building and Plumbing Code amendments, in effect September 1, 2012
- CCOHS Forum IV; October 29-30
- NSCSA Construction Safety Supervisor Conference; Nov 22

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All details regarding the Forum may be found here.

Registration is now open and may be done on-line at: CCOHS Forum IV: Better Together

Note there is a full-time student rate as well,
Cross Canada Hazard Alerts

British Columbia
- **Dangers of Laser Levels in Construction**

  The alert warns users of possible harmful exposure to eyes by using laser levels. Alert suggest users purchase Class 1 and Class 2 lasers (low powered). Also warnings that lasers are in use are recommended.

Saskatchewan
- **Agriculture Workers Suf- focate in Grain**

  The alert highlights the fatalities of 3 farm workers and a near miss in four separate incidents of grain entrapment. The alert explains how grain can form a ‘bridge’ over a hollow cavity and give way when a person walks over it; as well as, how grain may stick to sides of silos/bins and collapse when workers enter to break the grain loose.

Manitoba
- **Protective Gloves**

  The alert deals with the potential hazards of cuts and abrasions to hands and provides a guide to the selection of skin protection.

New Brunswick
- **Workers Killed on New Brunswick**

  The alert highlights the hazards that may occur in traffic control zones during work on roadways.

Ontario
- **Crane Controls on Crane Trucks**

  The alert notes the potential hazard involving exposed crane controls in crane trucks. Unshielded crane controls may be unintentionally contacted causing a crane or its parts to move.

Newfoundland
- **Attention Marine Vessel Operators**

  This alert highlights various hazards related to the operation of marine vessels and notes Newfoundland regulatory requirements (in effect since September 1, 2009).

  - **Propane Powered Floor Burnishers**

    Notes that users of these tools may be exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide. Recommendations for safe operation are included.

Recent Incidents

**Slip/Fall**

- While working on a steel roof employee slipped and cut arm on a piece of steel roofing. Fortunately person was wearing full protection or more serious injuries may have occurred

- Employee fell 10 feet from a scaffold. On investigation several violations of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding regulations were found, including:
  - No fall protection worn
  - No leveling jack or mudsills
  - No diagonal bracing

**Electrical Contact**

- A truck driver, while raising truck box, contacted an energized overhead wire. Fortunately no injuries, damage or outage occurred. The next day another employee, who had been present the previous day, made contact with the same overhead wire while operating an excavator. Again no injuries occurred but there was a power outage. On investigation it was noted that:
  - While it was not a written work procedure employees are instruct ed to never empty the grease tray when it is hot
  - This task had been many times before by the worker
  - Worker had forgotten about a lighter in their pocket which fell into the hot grease and flashed

**Abrasion/Cuts**

A worker was injured when the ride on mower they were operating fell over an embankment.

**Blasting/Fly Rock Incident**

Fly rock occurred during blasting work. On investigation it was determined the fly rock was due to a geological anomaly that was not known or noticed during the drilling of the blast hole.
**Province Consults with Construction Sector**

Are you involved in the Construction Sector?

If you are a builder, architect, engineer, municipal building official, or have some other interest in construction then the Province is looking for your input on 24 recommendations prepared by the Building Advisory Committee.

The NS Building Advisory Committee is established by the Building Code Act and reports to the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. As part of its duties it is to “provide the Minister with such advice and assistance concerning the Act and the regulations…”

As noted previously there are 24 recommendations. These recommendations address 3 major areas:

- Improving the Letters of Undertaking process
- Improving compliance with the Letters of Undertaking process
- Improving building quality (a shared responsibility)

Documents of interest (all are pdf format) are available on the Department’s Homepage and are comprised of:

- **Review of Obligations under Letters of Undertaking Final Report**
- **Related Documents**
  - Discussion Paper—Review of Obligations under Letters of Undertaking
  - Document de travail—Examen des obligations

Comments may be submitted for consideration up to December 20, 2012.

If you are interested in providing comments you may email Ted G Ross at:

Rosstg@gov.ns.ca

Or if you wish to provide written submissions please send them to:

C/O NS Building Advisory Committee
Labour and Advanced Education
Attn: Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 697
Halifax, NS, B3J 2T8
Fax (902) 428-3239

**FYI: Health and Safety Guidelines for NS Screen Based Production Industry**

Screen based production is highly complex. The business requires the orchestration of various technical and creative skills. It also presents unique and unusual occupational health and safety hazards precautions.

The Film Industry Health and Safety Committee together with the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education and the invaluable participation of a variety of people and Organizations in the industry developed the Health and Safety Guidelines for the Nova Scotia Screen Based Production Industry.

In addition to the above mentioned, the Ontario Ministry of Labour was gracious in allowing the use of their safety guidelines in the development process.

The Guidelines are a user-friendly guide to those working in the screen based industry in Nova Scotia, and should be considered as the minimum standards for health and safety. The guidelines are not a replacement for the OHS Act and Regulations.

While the Division accepts the Guidelines as providing reasonable precautions, it must be remembered that Officers will apply and enforce the requirements of the Act and relevant regulations.

The Guidelines cover such areas as:
- General Health and Safety Guidelines
- Departmental Safety including:
  - Carpentry/Woodworking
  - Rigging
  - Ladders/Scaffolding and fall protection equipment
  - Camera Cranes and mobile elevating work platforms
  - Electrical Safety
  - Hair and Make-up

It also deals with issues of safety on land, water, use of special effects and pyrotechnics, animal handling, use of vehicles (land, water, and/or air).
OHS Events—Who? What? Where? When?

Ever wonder what OHS conferences/events may be going on? Or, maybe you find about one just to discover you were too late. How about you are putting on an event and would like to get some more exposure.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety may have what you are looking for.

On the CCOHS website they have a nice succinct page with OHS Conferences for the year.

The page has a link to each month of the year which then lists dates, organizers and contact information of the events that are occurring nationally and internationally for that month.

For example: some of the events linked in September include:

- CSSE 2012 Professional Development Conference in Niagara Falls
- Africa's Largest OHS Conference and Exhibition in South Africa
- Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review in Vancouver
- WorkSafe NB 32nd Annual Health and Safety Conference.

So go see what you have been missing or if you are planning a conference or event use the e-mail link to have it included in their calendar.

Go to [CCOHS OSH Conferences](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)

For further information come see us on the Web at:

or our OHS Knowledgebase

Knowledgebase

Links to related agencies:

- [Nova Scotia WCB](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal (WCAT)](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [Workers’ Advisers Program (WAP)](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance System (WSIS)](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [Office of the Employer Advisor Nova Scotia](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [Service Canada / Français](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) / Français](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)
- [CanOSH (Canada’s National Workplace Health and Safety Website) / Français](http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/)