

# TheSignal

## Introducing

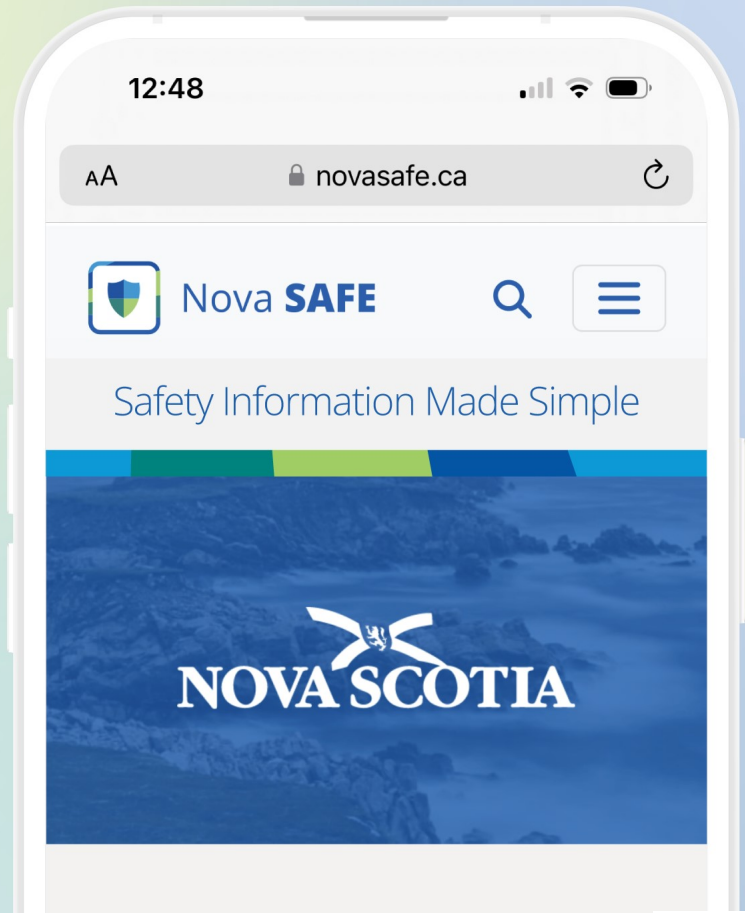


# Nova SAFE

Access today, visit:

**[NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE](https://NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE)**

Or scan the QR code:



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Stay informed about workplace and technical safety.

Join the [Safety Branch Contact List](#).



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# Have Equipment, Will Travel – Special Thanks to Our Neighbours & First Responders

As Nova Scotians we understand the power of community and what it means to come together to support each other in times of need. All the while recognizing and extending our utmost gratitude to those that routinely put their lives on the line to help keep others safe.

On May 27, 2023, first responders were alerted to a wildfire breaking out in the Barrington Lake area of Shelburne County – this fire would go on to burn out of control for more than two weeks, reaching a final size of 23,525 hectares (about 235 square kilometres) before being contained – the largest wildfire on record in the province. More than 6,000 people were forced from their homes and 60 houses and cottages were destroyed, with the addition of 150 other structures.

The following day on May 28, 2023, another wildfire began rapidly spreading in the Upper Tantallon region of Halifax – this fire continued to burn out of control for over a week, reaching a size of approximately 950 hectares (about 9.5 square kilometres). In total, about 16,400 residents were evacuated from the area and about 200 structures were destroyed, including 151 homes.

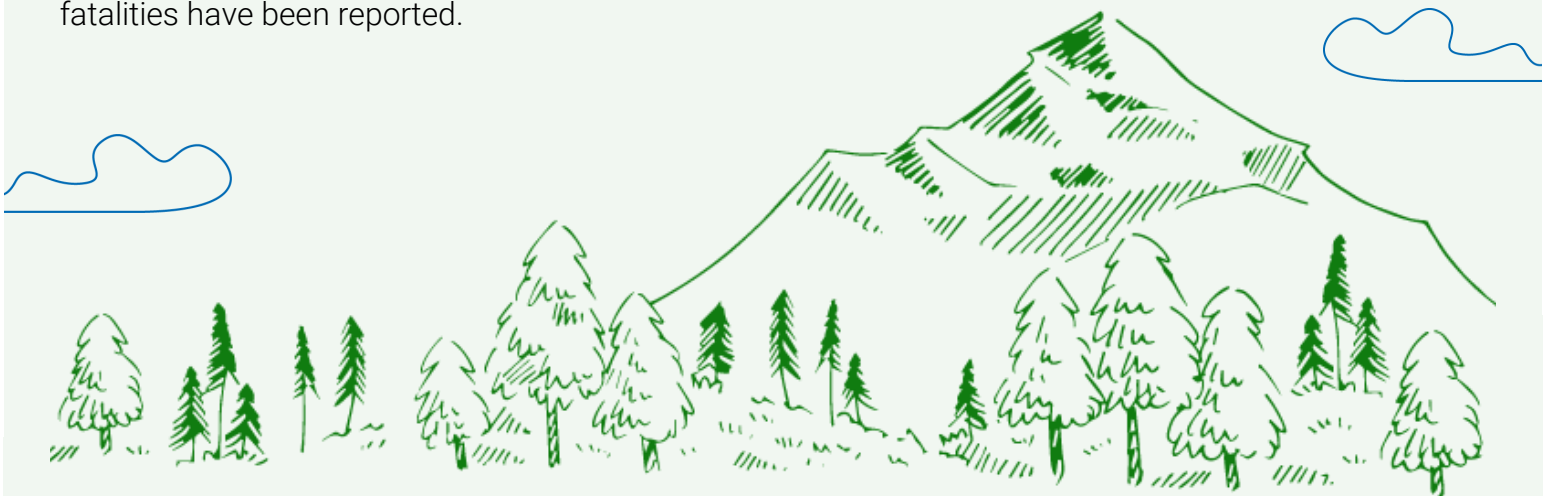
With hundreds of first responders, frontline workers, and volunteers quickly jumping into action, miraculously, no serious injuries or fatalities have been reported.

Help was there to answer the call when we truly needed it. Our Canadian neighbours, including Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, as well as our American neighbours, including New York and New Hampshire, stepped up to provide emergency assistance – sending much needed aerial firefighting support, personnel, and equipment. The Canadian Armed Forces and Coast Guard also assisted in the efforts, with some help even coming as far as South Africa.

From setting up comfort centres, to supporting families, and of course, everyone who put in tireless hours to battle the blazes head on, the Safety Branch sincerely sends a very heartfelt ‘thank you’ for all your efforts to help keep each other and our fellow Nova Scotians safe.

– Steve White

Awareness & Outreach Coordinator



# Wildfire Smoke & Making Safety a Priority When Returning Home From Prolonged Absences

The Safety Branch also wanted to ensure Nova Scotians were safe by providing timely safety information that would help employers and employees continue operating or return back to the affected areas safely.

Safety Notifications, comprising of Alerts, Bulletins, Directives and Notices are part of how we get important safety information in the hands of our interested parties and workplaces.

Our Occupational Health and Safety and Technical Safety divisions quickly issued several alerts and bulletins informing residents and workplaces about impacted technical equipment found in the areas of the wildfires. This includes gas and electric appliances, air quality concerns from wildfire smoke, heat stress with elevated risks from overlapping hot and humid weather, and various other safety issues.

These safety notifications address workplace hazards in regards to the continued recovery work and ongoing cleanup. The Safety Branch will continue to work with our partners, communities,

and our first responders to help keep everyone safe. Work safe, home safe, every day!

– Natalie Angelucci  
Awareness & Outreach Officer

- Safety Alert: [Returning Home Safely from Prolonged Absences - Gas and Electric Safety](#)
- Safety Alert: [Risks of Smoke Exposure - Wildfires](#)
- Safety Alert: [Heat Stress](#)
- Safety Bulletin: [Wildfire Recovery Work](#)





# Safety Information Made Simple

**Nova SAFE*****NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE***

## Introducing Nova SAFE – Safety Information Made Simple

On May 8, 2023, the Safety Branch announced the launch of Nova SAFE, our new mobile friendly website. Nova SAFE is an online resource that offers a modern and convenient way for Nova Scotian employers, supervisors, and workers to access important safety information.

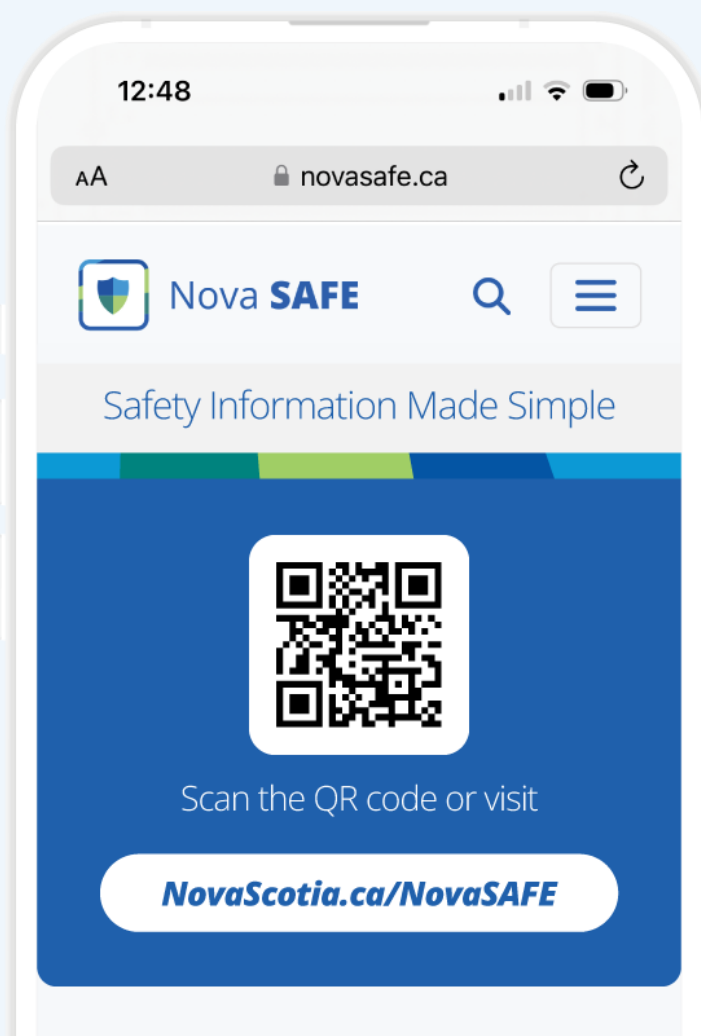
Accessible from any cell phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop, Nova SAFE was designed to provide clear guidance to workplaces about what they need to know at the push of button.

Are you looking for a toolbox talk, training requirements, or information on licensing of technical equipment? Nova SAFE provides clear plain language summaries of legislative requirements with helpful definitions, legislative references, and additional resources that help make it easier to achieve compliance with our Acts and Regulations.

In July, Nova SAFE was updated to include the French language version of the site. Simply click the 'Français' button from the menu to access the French content.

This update is the first of many more to come, so remember to check back often for new resources and topics being added in the future.

[Continued >](#)



**How to access** — Nova SAFE can be accessed from anywhere you have an active internet connection, wi-fi service, or cellular data plan, and is designed to be compatible with a wide variety of devices, including mobile phones, tablets, laptops, and desktops. Simply open your preferred browser and enter the URL: [NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE](https://NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE)

**Save as a shortcut on your mobile phone** — Installing Nova SAFE on your phone can be done in a few simple steps too, and is a quick and easy way to have important safety information quite literally at your fingertips, whenever and wherever you are.

#### Android

1. Open Chrome
2. Enter the URL:  
[NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE](https://NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE)
3. A banner will appear at the bottom of the page prompting you to add the app to your home screen
4. Click on the banner or click 'Install App' — OR — click the three stacked dots and select 'Install App'

#### iOS

1. Open Safari
2. Enter the URL:  
[NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE](https://NovaScotia.ca/NovaSAFE)
3. Click the share icon (box with the arrow pointing up) which will open a pane from the bottom of the screen
4. Scroll down and click on 'Add to Home Screen'
5. Click 'Add' in the top right corner

**Questions and feedback** — The launch of Nova SAFE is just the beginning, with several phases of updates, content releases, and new topics already in the pipeline. Our goal is to support and continually improve Nova SAFE for many years to come, and that's why listening your feedback or answering any questions is very important to us. Email: [SafetyBranch@novascotia.ca](mailto:SafetyBranch@novascotia.ca) or Call: 1-800-9LABOUR.

— Awareness & Outreach Team

#### Total Views:

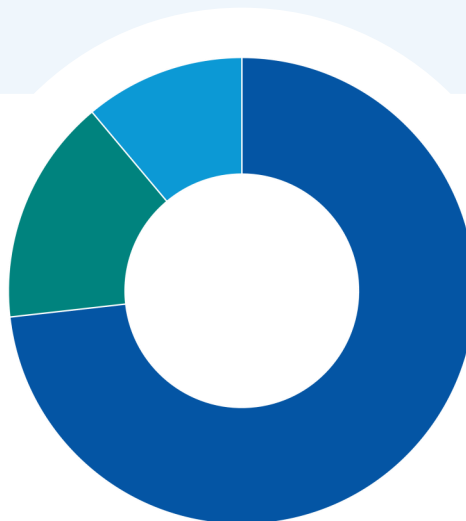
31,320

#### Total Users:

10,390

#### Most Viewed Topics:

1. Fall Protection
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
3. Accident Investigations
4. Ladders
5. Confined Spaces
6. JOHSC and Safety Representative



Usage: ● Mobile ● PC ● Tablet

## Summer Hazard Awareness

Summer can be a trying time for many workers. The direct impacts of the sun affecting outdoor workers can not be understated. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration may be some of the things that come to mind, but workers also need to ensure that they protect themselves from ticks, other insects, as well as poisonous plants.

Fatigue can be common due to warm, humid days. We don't always think of slip trip and fall hazards, but grass is wet with dew, and air conditioners and heat pumps can release larger amounts of water on hot and humid days.

Inside workers in restaurants and other settings need to pay particular attention as the kitchens can be extremely hot increasing the likelihood of distraction to the task at hand.

Ensure your workers are protected from the elements, able to access water, provide them with micro breaks, and a shaded area where they can rest. We can all do our part to keep everyone safe at work.

– Steven Sone  
Manager, Information & Client Services

## Working Outdoors

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause skin cancer, cataracts, and other forms of temporary or permanent skin and eye damage. Always take steps to reduce the risks and protect yourself from the sun when working outdoors.

- Cover up when outdoors
- Seek shade between 11AM and 3PM
- Wear sunglasses with 100% UV protection
- Use SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum sunscreen
- Stay hydrated
- Report skin changes to your doctor

– Steve White  
Awareness & Outreach Coordinator



Safety Bulletin: [Sun Safety](#)

### Tick Safety

Remember to keep tick safety top of mind and do a thorough tick-check after spending time working outdoors. Ticks like warm places on the body, such as around the ears, behind knees, in the hair, and around the waist. Learn more: [Tick Safety](#)

# Free Mental Health Online Resources Available to All Nova Scotia Residents

We live in stressful times! To support Nova Scotians, the Government of Nova Scotia has subscribed to numerous online mental health resources to make them available for free to all residents. They provide access through the [Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions](#) website.



A demo of several of the online mental health tools available through this website was provided for government employees recently. The sites reviewed included:

[Togetherall](#) — A clinically moderated, online peer-to-peer mental health community that empowers individuals to anonymously seek and provide support 24/7.

[Tranquility](#) — An internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (iCBT) program that has been shown to be effective in improving outcomes and reducing symptoms of mild to moderate anxiety and depression. Users of the program will have 24/7 access to program content, completing 9-12 modules for the core programs, with unlimited access to coaching for up to 26 weeks, over in-app messaging and/or weekly video or phone sessions. There is no cost to the users of the program.

[Therapy Assistance Online \(TAO\)](#) — Online library of engaging, interactive programs to learn life skills and to help you bounce back from

disappointments or stumbling blocks in life. As you watch videos and engage with our interactive components, you'll gain the knowledge, self-awareness, and skills you need to achieve your goals.

[MindWell U](#) — When you join you'll learn how 'mindfulness-in-action' is the fastest way to decrease stress, increase resilience, improve your mental health, and make you more capable to handle all of life's challenges.

There are many other sites that were not reviewed as the list of resource sites (tools) available to Nova Scotians is long. All the free online mental health tools can be found by visiting [Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions](#) and scrolling down to click on the 'Online Tools' option. Many tools are available in French and English. Some have restrictions for the age of participants.

Check out some of these tools to build your own resilience of to help others.

— Colleen Rodgerson  
Occupational Health & Safety Engineer

- Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line: [1-888-429-8167](tel:1-888-429-8167)
- Kids Help Phone: [1-800-668-6868](tel:1-800-668-6868) or Text [CONNECT](#) to [686868](tel:686868)

Did you know: Inflatable amusement devices, like bouncy castles rented for parties, are regulated by the Safety Branch's Technical Safety division. For your next gathering, ensure your inflatable devices are safe and in compliance. Learn more: [Inflatable Amusement Devices Safety Bulletin](#)

## Elevating Technical Safety's Visibility of Elevators, Lifts & Amusements

**Elevators and Lifts** — On March 10, 2023 Ray Grant, Manager of Elevators/Lifts/Amusements & Electrical Safety, Peter McClare, Chief Elevator Inspector, together with the whole inspection team, hosted a full day session to engage with the Elevators and Lifts Industry. The Safety Branch has had a long-standing approach of engaging with our industry partners to collaborate and inform on regulatory information.

On December 31, 2021 the Maintenance Control Program was adopted. This program is a prescriptive list of maintenance tasks which service providers must complete to ensure the safe operation of elevator equipment. The session focused on an evaluation and review of the outcomes over the first year of implementation as well as setting expectations for regulatory requirements going forward. The team also provided updates on multiple safety notification topics as well as ongoing initiatives of the Safety Branch.

Elevators, Lifts and Amusements is committed to a collaborative approach with it's industry partners. The updated [Maintenance Control Program Safety Directive](#) can be found on the [Elevators and Lifts](#) webpage.

**Amusements** — As part of the Elevators and Lifts unit, the Amusement Devices' team is reaching out to their industry partners, clients, contractors, and

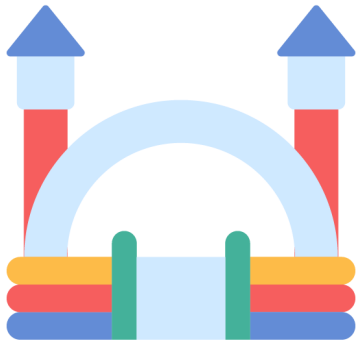


mechanics in an effort to bring more awareness to the licensing requirements for the safe use and operation of Inflatable Amusement Devices.

As more inflatable devices continue to pop up at fairs, carnivals, public events, and backyard gatherings, the Safety Branch would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the important safety regulations and guidelines in place that help keep everyone safely having fun.

[Continued >](#)





## Amusements Inflatable Devices

As per the [Amusement Devices Safety Act](#), inflatable amusement businesses are required to employ a person who holds a restricted certificate of competency for amusement devices to facilitate operations and daily inspections, and devices like bouncy castles must be licensed.

The [Inflatable Amusement Devices Safety Bulletin](#) further explains public safety information for residents, renters, owners, and mechanics.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Safety Branch for clarification.

– Gail Keeping  
[Director, Inspections & Compliance, Technical Safety](#)

## Agreement to Improve Technical Safety, Interjurisdictional Commerce, and the Mobility of Certified Tradespeople in Atlantic Canada

The four Atlantic Premiers and provincial ministers responsible for technical safety have signed an Agreement intended to make it easier for skilled workers like elevator mechanics, fuel technicians, and power engineers to work across provincial borders in Atlantic Canada.

Premier Tim Houston and Minister Jill Balser of Labour, Skills and Immigration, signed the Agreement for Nova Scotia on June 27, 2023.

Under the Agreement, each Atlantic government will work to streamline licence application processes for certified technical safety tradespeople coming from out-of-province. Easing cross-border registration and mobility for these tradespeople will help to address increasing regional demand for the specialized skills required to safely install and maintain technologies like elevators, fuel systems, and boilers and pressure equipment.

All provinces regulate these kinds of technologies

in the interest of public safety. Licensing, inspections, and mandatory technical codes and standards are among the tools used for this purpose. Differences in regulatory details may sometimes pose unintended barriers to trade and mobility across borders. Under the Agreement, Atlantic Provinces will seek opportunities to reconcile requirements, while continuing to maintain high safety standards.

For further information, please refer to the official Council of Atlantic Premiers press release: [Atlantic Premiers Sign Technical Safety Agreement](#)

– Jeff Dolan  
[Executive Director, Technical Safety](#)

# Safety Notifications

Join the [Safety Branch Contact List](#)

The Safety Branch releases safety notifications to bring attention to emerging or urgent workplace and technical safety issues. The level of safety notification is dependent on the urgency of the issue.



**Safety Alert** — Imminent danger to a safety issue, that if not addressed will likely lead to health and safety consequences.



**Safety Bulletin** — Non-imminent danger practices or procedures, which may have a level of safety risk if not addressed as soon as possible.



**Safety Directive** — An interpretation or application of the act, regulations or standards of the regulation, which require action. A Directive is legally binding and must be followed by the affected parties.



**Safety Notice** — Informative, non urgent, proactive communication on safety issue.

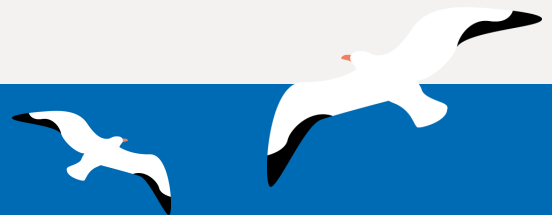
Safety notifications are posted on the respective [Occupational Health and Safety](#) or [Technical Safety](#) websites depending on topic and are communicated via email to members of the [Safety Branch Contact List](#) based on the affected sector or region. They are also promoted through our social media channels, primarily our Twitter account, [@NS\\_LabourSkills](#).

When you receive a safety notification, please share it with others. This includes those within your organization, such as managers, supervisors, and workers, or members of your association.

— Steve White  
[Awareness & Outreach Coordinator](#)

## Heat Stress

When temperatures begin to soar, watch for the signs of Heat Stress. If you're working in the sun, it can take as little as 30min to a few hours for the heat to cause dehydration, nausea or trouble concentrating. Stay healthy by staying hydrated. Learn more: [Heat Stress Safety Alert](#)



# How to Determine When Trucking is Federally or Provincially Regulated

In Canada there are fourteen jurisdictions — one federal, ten provincial, and three territorial that have their own Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation. When it comes to trucking companies, it is assumed that they are federally regulated. In most cases, a trucking company is federally regulated if they cross provincial or international borders. If a trucking company works within their own province, they would follow the provinces' OHS legislation.

The Canada Labour Code, Part II regulates a federal trucking company, where a Nova Scotia trucking company follows the Nova Scotia OHS Act and Regulations. In Canada, the Motor Carrier Division works closely with the provinces, territories and industry on rules and regulations governing the safe operation of commercial vehicles, drivers, and operators.

The National Safety Code is a set of sixteen minimum performance standards that federal and provincial companies must follow to ensure their commercial vehicles are operated safely. All jurisdictions in Canada have agreed to these standards. All provinces and territories use the National Safety Code as the foundation for their

commercial vehicle regulatory framework, with standards adopted by or referenced into the provinces/territory's regulations and laws.

Any trucking company with questions regarding which jurisdiction they fall under (provincial or federal) may contact the Federal Labour Program. General inquiries to the Canada Labour Program can be made by calling 1-800-641-4049.

– Monica Thomsen  
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Trucking Safety Association

Resource: [National Safety Code](#)



Nova Scotia organizations interested in influencing and improving occupational health and safety throughout the province may be eligible for funding through the OHS Education Trust Fund. To learn more, visit: [OHS Education Trust Fund](#)

## Atlantic Mining NS Inc. (St Barbara Ltd.) Awarded the John T. Ryan Regional Safety Trophy

On behalf of MSA Safety Sales LLC, partners in promoting safety in Canada's mining industry and the John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy Committee of which Labour Skills and Immigration is part of, we would like to salute Atlantic Mining NS Inc. (St Barbara Ltd.) mining for achievement in mine safety for the Select Mine Category for Eastern Canada.

Under this award category, the trophy is presented to the mining operation which has achieved the lowest reportable injury rate among the region's select mines. Congratulations on an outstanding safety performance in 2022! In recognition of your outstanding safety record, at Atlantic Mining NS Inc (St. Barbara Ltd.) Touquoy Mine have been awarded the John T. Ryan Regional Safety Trophy in the Select Mine category for Eastern Canada and wish your operations every success on your continued safety journey.

This award was presented to Atlantic Mining team at the Mining Society of Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in Cape Breton on June 8, 2023.

This was also "officially" announced by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum on May 1st, 2023 at the CIM Conference Gala in Montreal.

– Pleman Woodland  
Mining Engineer

John T. Ryan Regional  
Safety Trophy



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# TheSignal

We'd love to hear from you.

Providing your feedback will help us continually improve our newsletter and include more of the content you'd like to see.

[Feedback Survey](#)



# Safety Branch by the Numbers

Reporting period: Jan 1, 2023 to Jun 30, 2023

# 1956

Total Inquiries

1368 Occupational Health and Safety

588 Technical Safety

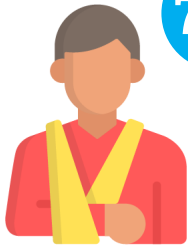
## 1728

Workplace Inspections

## 14

Opened OHS Investigations

## 730



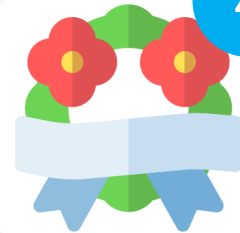
Serious Injuries

## 38



Serious Incidents

## 4



Workplace Fatalities

3 Acute / 1 Chronic

## 1073

Orders Issued

## 56

Administrative Penalties

## 3

Summary Offence Tickets

## 10

Charges Laid

## MAKE THE RIGHT CALL.

Call **1-800-9LABOUR**  
for workplace and public  
space safety issues,  
concerns and regulations.

NOVA SCOTIA

# Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

Click on the event for more information. External websites are not affiliated with the Safety Branch.

## July

**15-23:** North American Indigenous Games 2023 ☆

**16-23:** National Drowning Prevention Week

**24-26:** Occupational Health Psychology Summer Institute ☆

## September

**4:** Labour Day

**18-24:** Rail Safety Week

**26-27:** CCOHS Forum – The Changing World of Work ☆

**28:** BIPOC Atlantic Job Fair ☆

**30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

## August

**7:** Natal Day

**15:** National Acadian Day / La Fête nationale des Acadiens et des Acadiennes

## October

**1-31:** Healthy Workplace Month

**1-31:** Mi'kmaq History Month

**5:** Workplace Safety and Insurance System (WSIS) Conference ☆

**8-14:** Fire Prevention Week

**10:** World Mental Health Day

☆ – Safety Branch attending this event.

# TheSignal

Safety Branch  
Labour, Skills and Immigration