

# SAFETY NEWS

MCA Toronto Safety Committee Newsletter

October 2020

## Our Vision & Mission

For the purpose of contributing to and focusing on improving the association's safety culture and well-being....

### Our Vision is:

- To provide awareness, education and training, creating positive work environments with reduced risk.

### Our Mission is:

- To improve the health and safety of all members of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto.

## MCA Toronto Safety Newsletter

The purpose of our newsletter is a forum for sharing safety updates, news and information with our colleagues in the Mechanical Contracting industry.

We hope our members will find this newsletter a valuable resource that will build a greater awareness and respect for the safety culture we are confident all of our associates share.

## Provincial H & S Initiatives - Construction

- Tower Crane Inspection and Maintenance Aug. 31– Dec 31, 2020
  - Excavations & utility contacts Sept. 2– Nov. 2, 2020
  - Asbestos & Silica hazards Nov. 2 –Dec. 28, 2020
- [www.safetyauditing.com](http://www.safetyauditing.com)

## IHSA.ca H & S Advisory - Fatigue from Mask Use

While the reduction in the transmission of COVID-19 is paramount, the effects of mask use needs to be considered. Some of the main findings on the effects on the body are:

- ♦ Increase in discomfort
- ♦ Increased heart rate
- ♦ Increase in body temperature

With the prolonged use of masks and respiratory hazards, it is important to implement frequent rest breaks in a cooler environment and increasing water intake.

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## Amendments to Respirator Regulations in 2020

As you know Regulation 833 came into affect in January this year.

As a reminder, it's the Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents. In other words its about air quality and contaminants in the work-place.

The changes to Reg. 833 came by way of another regulation called O.REG/185/19.

There are approximately 15 new terms and Section 6 of the regulation was replaced.

Now there is a specific requirement for written procedures regarding how the employers intends to test and monitor contaminants.

Further to that, if your organization provides Respirators your safety program must include procedures regarding care and use, proper selection of equipment based on need, and fit testing.



## COVID-19 Regulation Updates:

All applicable recommendations made by the Ministry of Health are per Ontario Regulation 364/20 which requires us to follow the recommendations of Public Health Officials and the Chief Medical Officer. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200364>

Most recently the regulation requires compliance with the Public Health Screening Tool for Workplaces for workers or essential visitors entering the work environment. The following is a snapshot of the screening tool.

### Required Screening Questions:

1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs? *Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other or known causes or conditions.*

	Yes	No
Fever or chills		
Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath		
Cough		
Sore throat, trouble swallowing		
Runny nose/stuffy nose or nasal congestion		
Decrease or loss of smell or taste		
Nausea, vomiting diarrhea, abdominal pain		
Not feeling well, extreme tiredness, sore muscles		

2. Have you travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

3. Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19? Yes No

### Results of Screening Questions

If the individual answers **NO** to all questions 1 through 3, they have passed and can enter the office or worksite.

If the individual answers **YES** to any questions 1 through 3, they have not passed and should not enter the workplace (including any outdoor, or partially outdoor, workplaces). They should go home to self-isolate immediately and contact their health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-000) to find out if they need a COVID-19 test.

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/workplace\\_screening\\_tool\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/workplace_screening_tool_guidance.pdf)

### Assessment Centres:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/>

## COVID-19 Regulation Updates

## Federal Government Expands Employer Duties to Address Violence & Harassment

Legislation aimed at preventing work violence and harassment and expanding protection to more federally-regulated workers will come into force on January 1, 2021.



Upcoming Events

# IHSA - In-person Training Guidelines

With the opening of Phase 3 and In-person training resuming, the IHSA following the strict regulations of the OHSA, has created a guideline for employers and workers when it comes to training.

## Best practices

A best practices document was developed for all to understand the measures required for classroom training during COVID-19 where remote or virtual training cannot be accommodated.

## Considerations

The elements considered were class sizes and planning, staggering breaks, procedures for avoiding crowding in washrooms and elevators; screening, hygiene and sanitation access along with the general distancing, PPE right down to discouragement of sharing supplies. All practices we tend to take for granted and are easily forgotten.



Two upcoming FREE MCAC webinars have just been released! <https://mcac.ca/education/webinars/>

**September 23, 2020 – 1:00pm-2:00pm EST**

In [Track Your Productivity Impacts Due to COVID](#), you'll learn about how to accurately track your jobsite productivity, and the ongoing impacts of COVID.

The second in our series, [Prepare for the Months and Years after COVID](#), will take place on: **October 15, 2020 – 1:00pm-2:00pm EST**



Every year falls result in a significant number of work injuries and deaths, particularly in construction. Falls are preventable. Let's hope everyone participated by holding safety talks about preventing falls in the workplace.

The WAH training standard is only the first step. Knowing the specific hazards at the worksite and putting controls in place to prevent them is key.

The IHSA offers site specific safety talks.

<https://www.ihsa.ca/IHSA/Products/Items/Health-and-Safety-Advisory-WAH-Site-Specific-Trai.aspx>

XXII World Congress Digital Meeting

**COVID-19 and OSH**



5-6 October 2020



## WSPS Launches COVID-19 Quick Resource

This hub offers critical information, resources, and updates to help employers ensure the safety of their workers during this time.

### WSIB Statistical Reports

Did you know that the WSIB offers a statistical report called “By the Numbers.”

This report highlights health and safety trends in Ontario, including injuries, fatalities and return to work results.

The goal is to assist health and safety partners to use the information to focus their efforts to improve workplace safety.

They offer a report builder allows you to customize reports to your area of interest.

If you want to check on safety data from your own business, you may do so from a secure login to “Compass” from the online service.

Do you want to know how safe a workplace is? “Safety Check” will give you data on injuries, types and numbers in a workplace.

For more information: [www.wsibstatistics.ca](http://www.wsibstatistics.ca)

### National Construction Day

Tuesday Nov. 3, 2020

Celebrate online our industry's commitment to health and safety by submitting photos of your worksites following COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

## Small Business Health and Safety Leadership Awards

2020 applications opened Sept 1, 2020

The WSIB's Small Business Health and Safety Leadership Awards recognize outstanding health and safety achievements in small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

We know that many small business owners work hard to keep the people who work for them safe. It goes without saying that the ongoing pandemic has changed the landscape for so many small businesses in Ontario. They are hoping to spotlight the small business leaders who showed resilience through the pandemic, and made their workplaces healthier and safer.

Submit an application for your own business. Tell us about your health and safety initiatives that made it safe, and helped your employees feel confident about returning to work.

The top three businesses will receive a cash prize - \$5,000 (gold), \$3,000 (silver), \$2,000 (bronze) - and be recognized in November. The first place winner will also be featured in a promotional video featured on the WSIB website.

Criteria:

- ◆ Applicants must be registered with the WSIB and have an account in good standing.
- ◆ Have at least 1 employee (not including the owner/operator) but less than 50
- ◆ During the lifetime of the business applicants must not have had
  - ◆ Any fatalities
  - ◆ Any convictions by the MOL for any OHSA violations

Applications are due October 5, 2020

WSIB Small Business Health & Safety Leadership Awards



Upcoming Events

Sources

