

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.

WORKING AT HEIGHTS

Falls continue to be a leading cause of critical injuries and fatalities of construction workers in Ontario.

Some of the most fatal incidents and most common in the workplace, happen when people neglect safety when working at heights. This line of work requires diligent preparation and protection in terms of safety procedures and employers need to ensure employees are properly trained.

The Ministry of Labour has set out a whole host of regulations and guidelines for employers when it comes to working at heights. Their primary directive for employers is they must ensure that certain workers complete a working at heights training program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) and delivered by an approved training provider before they can work at heights.

As if WAH was not enough of a challenge, other considerations are hazards that pose a threat **while** working at heights that **aren't** falling. For example, falling debris, obstacles such as overhead beams, wires, equipment, faulty platforms and weather.

Safety is everyone's responsibility, employers and workers alike and the reality is, there is no safe height to fall from.

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Lunch atop a skyscraper – 1932



ONTARIO REVIEWING JHSC CERTIFICATION TRAINING

As part of their 5 year standard review, Ontario is consulting the public for feedback on the program and provider standards.

[SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS](#)

ELECTRONIC MONITORING POLICY - October 11th deadline

Earlier this year, new legislation was announced requiring employers to create a policy which would require them to be transparent on how their employees' devices were being tracked. Employers with **more than 25 people** as of Jan.1st in any year, are required to have their policy in place by March 1st of that same year.

Recently the MOL provided guidance to help employers understand what is required under the new law as follows:

The Policy must include:

1. A statement as to whether or not the employer electronically monitors employees.
2. If the employer does electronically monitor employees, the Policy must describe:
 - a. how the employer may electronically monitor employees;
 - b. the circumstances in which the employer may electronically monitor employees; and
 - c. the purposes for which information obtained through electronic monitoring may be used by the employer

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE REVIEW

In recent months, the WSIB and Ministry of Labour announced they would be completing a review of the occupational disease system in order to upgrade the occupational health and safety system. Improving prevention of occupational diseases, and proper identification when they do occur, are critical components of the system improvement.

The MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions will be leading the research, and the review will focus on an occupational disease report developed by Dr. Paul Demers.

His report identifies challenges associated with prevention as well as training health care providers to recognize occupational diseases. The goal of this review is to ensure that the "systems of support" are able to keep up as science and the understanding of occupational diseases progress. A final report of this review is expected in December of 2022.

The review of the occupational disease system comes as the WSIB has begun implementing an Occupational Disease Strategy. To learn more about WSIB's Occupational Disease Strategy. [CLICK HERE](#)



MENTAL HEALTH & OPIOIDS IN CONSTRUCTION

Mental health knows no borders. Groups in the U.S. are teaming up to address mental health and suicide throughout the construction industry. Their view is safety is not just about recordable incidents but includes mental health, emotional, social, intellectual, occupational and spiritual wellness.

The American construction industry has a suicide rate of 54.3 per 100,000 workers aged 16-64, citing data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. (CDC).

In Canada, Ontario construction workers accounted for a large share of opioid deaths in the province. A total of 428 opioid deaths among individuals who had a history of employment in the construction industry from July 2017 to the end of 2020 in Ontario.

In the first 10 months of the pandemic, 30 per cent of employed Ontarians who died from overdose worked in construction– the highest proportion of any industry. As a result, and as part of the Working for Workers Act, 2022 earlier this year, Ontario is mandating the naloxone kits.

The construction industry is known for rigorous, skilled, difficult and sometimes dangerous work. The physical demands of construction work are well known and chronic pain often comes from years of hard labour. With high levels of physical suffering often comes mental suffering and workers turn to drugs and alcohol to cope.

Opioids are often prescribed to treat chronic pain that comes as a natural result of their work and long term dependence on alcohol and drugs worsens mental health outcomes, compounding the problem.

Over the years, the stigma around mental health has started to diminish, with many industries making an effort to raise awareness and offer support. Mental health in the workplace is important in any industry, and companies have shown significant progress in promoting and supporting a healthier work environment.

World Mental Health Day, celebrated every October 10 is an excellent time to continue the effort to raise awareness about the struggles faced by men and women working in construction.

EXCERPTS: THE SAFETY MAG



The IHSA has launched two new additional eLearning programs: Occupational Mental Health and Preventing Slips Trips and Falls.

Learn more about IHSA's eLearning programs

ONTARIO COR™ CERTIFIED BUSINESSES
SEE A 28% INJURY- RATE REDUCTION

New research shows that Ontario companies that use the COR™ national standard to implement and evaluate their occupational health and safety systems are reaping significant rewards, including an average lost-time injury rate that is almost one-third less than comparable non-COR™ firms.

For more information, [click here](#)

IHSA COR™ CONFERENCE

IHSA invites you to register for one of two available COR™ Conferences: In-person on November 1st or virtually on November 22, 2022.

During this conference, you will obtain valuable information, tools, and experiences that can help you to be successful in achieving your COR™ certification using the COR™ 2020 audit tool.

[Click here](#)

WSIB H&S EXCELLENCE BENEFIT

Great news – as a member of the WSIB's Health and Safety Excellence program, you're now entitled to a discount at Mark

For more information on the discount program, please visit [Mark's website](#).

10% CLIENT SAVINGS CARD

Present this card at any Mark's location to receive the above discount on all purchased items.

Card is required to be eligible for discount. Where an item is sale priced, the lower price will apply. This card is not valid for online purchases and is not redeemable for the purchase of gift cards. Not to be combined with any other offer. Purchase must be paid for at point of sale by credit card, debit or cash.

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HEATERS

The cold weather is around the corner and more often than not in construction, temporary heat is used.

While they serve a vital function, they can also be dangerous. Temporary heaters run on electricity, propane, fuel oil and natural gas and many of the hazards of using them depend on how they are powered.

Electric heaters are useful in closed spaces with limited fresh air, but can create a trip hazard with cords and extension cords.

Liquid fuel heaters need a large storage tank for constant supply of fuel.

Propane and natural gas heaters provide a cost effective supply of heat but both gases are highly flammable, explosive and precautions must be taken when storing, handling or using these gases. Also fuel fired equipment is a source of CO and this odorless gas can be deadly even in small doses. Only workers holding a training certificate may operate propane, gas or oil heaters.

Ensure controls are in place, everyone is aware of where they are on site and that they are inspected.

HIERARCHY OF SAFETY CONTROLS

1. Elimination: Physically remove the hazard.
2. Substitution: Replace the hazard.
3. Engineering controls: Isolate people from the hazard.
4. Administrative controls: Change the way people work.
5. PPE: Protect the worker with personal protective equipment

