



# Achieving Excellence

## How Far Is YOUR Health & Safety Program From Becoming An 'Occupational Health & Safety Management System'?



By Brenda Robertson

**M**any Canadian companies have a Health & Safety Policy and perhaps a Health & Safety Manual that includes some procedures for working safely. Some companies have implemented a Health & Safety Program and established targets for reducing accidents in the workplace. Few have crossed the threshold and implemented an Occupational Health & Safety Management System (OHSMS.)

Many countries have already established legal requirements for implementing a Health & Safety Management System. Although not yet a legal requirement in Canada, early in 2006 the Canadian Standards Association published CSA Z1000. Have you taken time to read through the Standard and determine your organization's level of compliance?

The purpose of an OHSMS as defined by the CSA Z1000 Standard is to improve health & safety performance, reduce or prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities and to eliminate or control hazards and risks in the workplace. The results of which are a reduction in accident claims, lost time claims and claims costs, reduced absenteeism, reduced downtime, improved productivity, improved morale, reduced opportunity for litigation, a reduction in adverse publicity, and ultimately increased business opportunities as customers chose to do business with companies with not only an excellent reputation for quality and productivity, but also those with a proven safety record.

In business we diligently administer our finances through extensive budgeting systems. We diligently monitor production with targets and systems to improve efficiencies. We diligently track and improve product quality through industry specific quality systems. Why do we not diligently address health & safety through management systems? Health & safety is often viewed as an expense with limited ROI. In all other areas of business, the initial cost of implementing a management system, is far outweighed by the benefits.

Now is the time to review your Policy, Program and Procedures with an eye for compliance and implement a CSA Z1000 compliant OHSMS based on your terms and timelines. Why wait until the deadline is set?

For more information please contact Brenda Robertson (905) 873-3031, brobertson@cybertrain.on.ca

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# Ministry of Labour News

## Seeley's Bay Contractor Jailed 30 Days

for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in injuries to a young worker.

On Sept. 14, 2004, a worker fell from a roof about 3 storeys into a refuse bin on the ground below. The worker suffered a bruised shin bone. Just prior to the incident the worker had been instructed by the defendant to ascent the roof to remove old shingles so they could be replaced. The roof was about 8m (27') from the top of the eaves trough to the ground. The worker had been on the roof for about 10 minutes before falling. It was the worker's first day on the job.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the worker was not wearing a fall arrest harness when ascending the roof. However, as the worker lay injured in the bin, the defendant put a fall arrest harness on the worker and told the worker to tell the Ministry of Labour Investigators the worker had been wearing it while on the roof. The worker did as instructed.

The defendant pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure fall protection was used by the worker, as required by Section 26.1(2) of the Construction Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1)(d) of the Act.

**In a separate matter, following a trial, K.B. Home Insulation Ltd.** was found guilty, as a constructor, of two violations of the Act in connection with the worker's fall.

1. Failing to ensure the worker was adequately protected by fall protection, as required by Section 26.1(2) of the Construction Regulations, contrary to Section 23(1)(b) of the Act.
2. Failing to ensure the worker was adequately trained in the use of fall protection, as required by Section 26.2 of the Construction Regulations, contrary to Section 23(1)(b) of the Act.

## Ikea Holdings Canada Limited fined \$80,000

for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a leg injury to a worker.

On Jan. 28, 2004, 2 workers were unloading a trailer in a shipping/receiving area when a section of product on skids fell on a worker. The worker suffered a broken bone in the right leg. Following the incident, the scene was not secured and 2 other workers removed the remainder of the load. The Ministry of Labour was notified about 6 hours after the incident. The Ministry was told that an employee had taken several photographs of the scene and video footage was available.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found one of the factors that contributed to the incident was carpets and door mats that were on top of other products on the skids. In addition, some of the load was not stored in a secure manner to prevent in from falling.

Ikea Holdings Canada Limited pleaded guilty, as an employer, to:

1. Failing to ensure the load was stored in a manner so as to prevent tipping, collapsing or falling, as required by Section 45 (b) of the Industrial Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the Act; and
2. Failing to preserve the scene of the incident contrary to Section 25 (2) of the Act.

## Cooper-Standard Automotive Canada Limited fined \$60,000

for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious hand injuries to a worker.

On Jan. 4, 2005, a worker was attempting to fix a problem with a "post-form rolling mill" when the worker's hand became caught between the mill's 2 metal rollers. On

of the rollers had a sharp contour shape resulting in lacerations and crushing injuries to the worker's right hand and fingers. A Ministry of Labour investigation found there were no guarding devices on the post-form rolling mill to prevent access to the hazardous pinch points.

Cooper-Standard Automotive Canada Limited pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the post-form rolling mill was equipped with, or guarded by, a guard or other device to prevent access to the in-running nip hazard, as required by Section 25 of the Industrial Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1) (c) of the Act.

## Solid Stone Inc. fined \$50,000

for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious injuries to a worker.

On Sept. 27, 2004, a worker was helping to move 6 marble slabs, each weighing about 181kg (400lbs), when the slabs fell onto the worker. At the time of the incident, the worker had been holding the slabs against a rack/material handling device, but, as the rack/material handling device was being lifted, the worker had advised a 2nd worker of being unable to continue to hold onto the slabs. The 2nd worker was operating a 3 ton capacity overhead crane that was being used to lift the rack/ material handling device. The slabs fell off the rack/ material handling device and the 1st worker suffered multiple leg injuries.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the marble slabs were not attached, tied or in any way secured to the rack/ material handling device.

Solid Stone Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the material being lifted was moved in such a way, and with such precautions and safeguards, so as to ensure its moving did not endanger a worker's safety, as required by Section 45(a) of the Industrial Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1) (c) of the Act.

## Up To 5 Canadians Die On The Job Each Working Day: Study

### CBC News

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2006/12/12/workplace-deaths.html>

Nearly five Canadians died every working day in workplace-related deaths from 1993 to 2005, an unacceptably high level, according to a study released on Tuesday.

The study, *Five Deaths a Day: Workplace Fatalities in Canada, 1993-2005*, says the number of workplace deaths is on the increase in Canada.

In 2005, there were 1,097 workplace deaths in Canada, up from 958 in 2004. In 1993, the total was 758. The five workplace deaths per day is based on Canadians working an average of 230 days a year.

"Canada can do much better," the study concludes.

According to the study, Newfoundland in 2005 had the highest rate of workplace deaths of all 10 provinces, with 11.7 deaths per 100,000 workers, a rate that is nearly double the national average.

The study also found that men are more likely to die on the job than women, with the incidence of workplace death 30 times higher among men than women in 2005.

The Centre for Study of Living Standards, an Ottawa-based non-profit organization that put together the study, looked at workplace fatalities from 1993 to 2005, analyzing the numbers by jurisdiction, gender, age group, industry, occupation, event, nature of injury and source of injury.

"As Canadians work on average 230 days per year, this means that there were nearly five work-related deaths per working day in this country. Workplace fatalities, unlike death in general, are in principle avoidable. Thus, any workplace death should be unacceptable. It is therefore a matter of grave concern that the number of workplace fatalities in this country is increasing, not falling," the study says.

### Emphasis on worker safety

Andrew Sharpe, co-author of the study, said there is no question that the numbers of workplace deaths in Canada can be reduced through an increase in emphasis on worker safety.

"By definition, if you had a death, something went wrong — lack of proper equipment or sometimes it's just freak accident. But the more awareness, the more there can be a reduction in the number of fatalities," he said.

The study, which was done to provide an analysis of who dies on the job and why, found that the most dangerous industries in Canada are fishing and trapping, mining, quarrying and oil rigs, logging and forestry, and construction.

The study says workplace fatalities are not only highly concentrated in certain industries, they also occur more often in certain occupations than in others. In 2004, for example, the workers most at risk of dying on the job were trades, transport and equipment operators.

Workplace fatalities, as well, stem from accidents and occupational diseases, the study says.

In 2005, out of 1,097 workplace fatalities, 491 people died in

accidents, while 557 died from occupational diseases. Asbestos-related deaths alone accounted for 340 deaths in 2005, the study found.

### Provincial breakdown

In a provincial breakdown of workplace deaths, the study said Ontario had the largest number of workplace deaths, with an average of 303 deaths per year from 1993 to 2005, 35.4 per cent of the country's total. It said the number was not surprising, given the province's large population. However, Ontario's incidence rate for the period, at 5.3 deaths per 100,000 workers, is less than the national average of 5.9 deaths.

Newfoundland and Labrador had by the far the highest incidence rate, with an average of 11.9 deaths per 100,000 workers for the time period. Between 1996 and 2005, there were an average of 23.8 work-related deaths in Newfoundland each year.

The province also had the largest increase in workplace death rates in the time period. The rate more than doubled, to 11.7 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2005 from 5.7 in 1993. Rates also increased in Alberta, Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario.

However, rates declined in the other five provinces, with Nova Scotia recording the largest decline.

B.C., Saskatchewan and Alberta had the next highest incidence rates in the time period for which data was available, while P.E.I., Manitoba and N.B. had the lowest.

According to the study, occupational disease is a driving force behind an increase in the incidence rate of workplace deaths in Canada. In 2005, the rate of workplace deaths was 6.8 per 100,000 workers, a rise from 5.9 per 100,000 workers in 1993.

### Occupational disease

Much of the increase can be attributed to workplace related deaths from occupational disease in the 65 years and older age group. For example, such deaths in this age group rose 172 per cent to 258 in 2004 from 95 in 1996. Data for 2005 are currently unavailable.

The study concludes that about 70 per cent of the increase in the number of workplace deaths in Canada between 1996 and 2005 is due to asbestos. Exposure can lead to such diseases as asbestosis and mesothelioma, a malignant and generally deadly cancer whose only known cause is previous exposure to asbestos.

According to the study, asbestos exposure occurs through the inhalation of asbestos dust and fibre. Symptoms may not appear until 20 to 50 years after the exposure, which explains why the fatalities occurred among the older age groups, and why "the number of work-related deaths has not yet peaked."

"Furthermore," the report said, "Canada continues to mine, use (albeit at a much smaller scale than in the past) and export asbestos while many other countries have implemented bans."

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## Defensive Driving: The One Second Advantage

Snowplow operators are the most skilful and defensive drivers on the road. For over 14 years, Training Services has been the training provider of choice for snowplow operators in many municipalities, counties and regions throughout Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. From our work with snowplow operators, we learned the defensive driving techniques they use to avoid collisions and have developed these into a new Defensive Driving course suitable for drivers of every type of vehicle.

We call our new course "Defensive Driving: The One Second Advantage" because a great number of collisions could be avoided if the driver reacted one second sooner. The "One Second Advantage" is also a method for drivers to monitor their own driving habits and improve their skills by analyzing close calls.

### Discover:

- ☞ What is the "one second advantage"
- ☞ The habits of good defensive drivers
- ☞ Techniques that allow other drivers to anticipate your actions
- ☞ How to anticipate the actions of other drivers
- ☞ Learning from your mistakes and close calls

Some have said it is one of those courses that will change the way you drive for the rest of your life. For more information call Barbara Ford 905 873 3031, or email [bford@cybertrain.on.ca](mailto:bford@cybertrain.on.ca)

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"Doc, I can't stop singing ...  
'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'  
"That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome."  
"Is it common?"  
"Well, It's Not Unusual."



## Things to love about Canadian Winters

- \* There are no mosquitoes.
- \* You're so busy worrying about your car not starting, you don't have time to worry about anything else.
- \* All the sissies leave for Florida.
- \* If you carelessly leave meat in your car, it will freeze and stay fresh.
- \* There's the thrill of skiing downhill or unexpectedly being totally out of control as your car slides down an icy road.
- \* Bundled up as they are, kids can fall down 3 flights of stairs and not get hurt.
- \* You have more miles on your snow blower than your car.
- \* You think sexy lingerie is a flannel nightgown with only 8 buttons.
- \* The best reason: Knowing that the rest of the world is looking at us in total amazement, saying, "Why in the world do they stay there?"

## See If You Can Figure Out What These Words Have In Common....

Banana  
Dresser  
Grammar  
Potato  
Revive  
Uneven  
Voodoo  
Assess

### Given Up?

**Answer: In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. Did you figure it out?**

**When I told the doctor  
about my loss of memory,  
he made me pay  
in advance!**

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