Slips, Trips and Falls Initiative

March 18 to July 12, 2019
Industrial Program
Your Hosts

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Disclaimer

This resource does not replace the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations, and should not be used as or considered legal advice. Health and safety inspectors apply the law based on the facts in the workplace.

It is the responsibility of workplace parties to ensure compliance with the legislation. This document does not constitute legal advice.
Overview

- Safe At Work Ontario
- Slips, Trips and Falls Initiative
- What to Expect During an Inspection
- Hazard Focus
- Falls Awareness Week 2019
- MOL Contact Centre
- Resources
Safe At Work Ontario

• The goal of Ontario’s *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) is to keep workers safe and healthy. The OHSA sets out the health and safety requirements for workplaces across Ontario.

• Safe At Work Ontario is the Ministry of Labour’s compliance strategy that helps promote safe and healthy workplace practices.
Slips, Trips and Falls Initiative

When?
• From March 18 to July 12, 2019, the Ministry of Labour will conduct an initiative focusing on slips, trips and falls in workplaces across Ontario.
  • Phase 1: March 18 to July 12, 2019 – Compliance assistance and awareness campaign with our health and safety partners
  • Phase 2: April 15 to July 12, 2019 – Focused inspections campaign

Why?
• Between 2011 to 2016, “falls” was the second top-cause of traumatic fatalities. Sixty-six workers were killed at work due to falls during this time period.
• Falls was the third-highest injury event in 2017, accounting for 20% of allowed lost-time claims with the WSIB.
• This initiative will provide the ministry with an opportunity to promote compliance with the OHSA.
Slips, Trips and Falls Initiative

Where?
• This province-wide initiative will focus on workplaces in the industrial, construction, mining and health care sectors.

What?
• The first phase of the initiative will focus on educating workplace parties on their responsibilities regarding addressing slips, trips and falls hazards inherent to their sector.
• During phase two, inspectors will conduct proactive workplace inspections to review compliance with the OHSA.
What to Expect During an Inspection

• During a proactive inspection, inspectors will enforce the OHSA based on the facts at the time of the inspection.

• An inspector has the right to enter and be granted access to all areas of the workplace.

• When a ministry occupational health and safety inspector arrives at your workplace, they will introduce themselves, explain the reason for the visit and ask to have a worker and management representative accompany them during the inspection.

• The Inspector may conduct an administrative review and a physical inspection of the workplace.
What to Expect During an Inspection

• If an inspector finds a contravention under the OHSA, the inspector will explain the contravention and may refer the workplace to an HSA for compliance assistance.
  o An order may also be issued and the employer must comply.

• Inspectors issue stop work orders where an immediate threat to worker health and safety has been observed.

• A field visit report outlining to details of the visit including orders issued, will be provided to the employer.

For more information, please visit: https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/ohs_inspections.php
Workplace Sectors and Subsectors

Workplaces in the following sectors and subsectors may be visited:

- Retail
- Tourism, Hospitality & Recreational Services
- Building Facilities Support Services
- Transportation
- Restaurants including Limited-Service Eating Places
Legislated Requirements for Falls

Inspectors will check that employers are taking appropriate action to assess and control fall hazards as require by the:

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*
- *Regulation for Industrial Establishments*
General Duties of Employers

The following are some examples of employers’ duties under the OHSA:

• Take every reasonable precaution in the circumstance for the protection of a worker.

• Ensure equipment, materials and protective devices are well maintained.

• Ensure that workers are provided with the appropriate information, instruction and supervision.
Duties for Supervisors

The following are some examples of supervisors’ duties under the OHSA:

• Ensure workers comply with the OHSA and its regulations
• Ensure any equipment, protective device or clothing required by the employer is used or worn by workers
• Advise any workers of any potential or actual health and safety dangers known by the supervisor.
• Taking every precaution reasonable in the circumstance for the protection of a worker.
Worker Duties

The following are some examples of workers’ duties under the OHSA:

- Use or operate equipment in a same manner
- Reporting defects in equipment
- Working in compliance with the OHSA and its regulations
- Report any known workplace hazards or contraventions of the OHSA to their supervisor or employer
Workers’ Rights

• Right to refuse unsafe work.

• Right to participate.

• Right to know.
Key Focus for Inspectors

Administrative Review:
• As part of the administrative review Inspectors will ask if there have been any LTI’s related to Slips, Trips or Falls, especially this past winter and if so, what has been done to prevent recurrence?

Safe Work Practices:
• Inspectors can check that employers have developed safe work practices including:
  – Regular housekeeping
  – Assessing for the risk of falls
Key Focus for Inspectors

Falls from ladders, mobile stands and platforms:
• Assess for equipment hazards
• Equipment maintenance
• Appropriate for the application
• Placed on firm footing

Falls from truck beds, trailers or top of loads:
• Use of safe work practices
• Procedures for securing tarps
• Adequate lighting
• Maintain safe work surfaces
Key Focus for Inspectors

**Ergonomics:**
- Worker’s posture
- Use of force
- Safe material handling
- Loss of balance

**Worker Training:**
- Inspectors will check that employers provide information, instruction and supervision to workers to prevent injuries and deaths from fall hazards.
Floor or Other Surface Requirements

Section 11 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirements for floor or other surfaces used by a worker.

Floors and other surfaces should be kept free of:
- obstructions
- hazards
- accumulations of refuse, snow or ice

Floors should not have any finish or protective material used on it that is likely to make the surface slippery.
Guardrails

Section 13 and 14 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirements for guardrails.

In general guardrails are required:

• around the perimeter of an uncovered opening in a floor, roof or other surface to which a worker has access
• at the open side of a raised floor, mezzanine, balcony, gallery, platform, etc.
• at the open side of a vat, bin or tank

Guardrails should have a top rail (91 to 107 centimetres above the area to be guarded) and a mid-rail.
Openings

Section 15 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirement for a cover on an opening in a floor, roof or other surface. It must be:

- secured in place
- Constructed to meet the structural requirements for loads due to the use of floors and roofs as set out in the Building Code
Fixed Access Ladders

Section 18 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirements for fixed access ladders including but not limited to:

- be vertical
- have rest platforms at not more than nine metre intervals
- be offset at each rest platform
- have side rails that extend ninety centimetres above the landing
- have rungs which are at least fifteen centimetres from the wall and spaced at regular intervals

Section 19 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the location requirements for a fixed stair or access ladder, with permanent platforms.

- Where frequent access is required to equipment above or below floor level
Lighting

Section 21 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirement for adequate lighting.

• Where natural lighting is inadequate, artificial lighting shall be provided and shadows and glare shall be reduced to a minimum.
Section 45 of the Industrial Regulation sets out the requirement for materials, articles or things. They must be:

- lifted, carried or moved safely with precautions and safeguards, including protective clothing, guards, etc.
- transported placed or stored as to not:
  - tip, collapse or fall
  - endanger the safety of any worker while being removed or withdrawn
- removed from storage, pile or rack safely.
Portable Ladders

- *Section 73 of the Industrial Regulation* sets out the requirements for portable ladders. They include requirements to:
  - be free from broken or loose members or other faults
  - have non-slip feet
  - be placed on firm footing

- When not secured, ladders must be placed at an angle of no less than 1:4 and no greater than 1:3 (e.g. one foot out from the wall for every three or four feet up).

- Workers should be trained to keep three point contact when using ladders (e.g. two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot in contact with the ladder).
Falls Awareness Week 2019

- Falls Awareness Week aims to bring awareness to the falls hazards which exist in every workplace through workplace discussion and participation.

- MOL is encouraging workplaces to participate in the second annual Falls Awareness Week from May 6 – 10, 2019

- During this week, employers and workers are encouraged to stop work for 15 – 30 minutes to have a safety talk about fall hazards in the workplace

- Use OHS system partner resources to develop material for a safety talk on how to prevent slips, trips and falls in your workplace.
MOL Contact Centre

1–877–202–0008

• Call between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday for general inquiries about workplace health and safety.
• Call any time to report critical injuries, fatalities or work refusals.

• **Always call 911** in an emergency.
Ministry of Labour Resources

Falls Prevention Resources & Information:
• Ontario.ca/StopFalls

Other MOL Resources:
• Sector Plans - https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/sectorplans/
Falls Prevention Resources

Falls Toolkit – *links to be emailed week of April 8*

- Videos
- Job Aids
- Posters
- Fact Sheets
- eCourses
- Events
IHSA – Transportation Sector Resources

Trucking Resources

- Preventing fractures in general trucking

- Slip and fall hazards for truck drivers
  [https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/slip_and_fall_hazards_for_truck_drivers.pdf](https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/slip_and_fall_hazards_for_truck_drivers.pdf)

- Tarping loads on a flatbed trailer
  [https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/tarping-loads-on-a-flatbed-trailer.pdf](https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/tarping-loads-on-a-flatbed-trailer.pdf)

Safety Talk Resources

- Safety Talk: 3-point contact
  [https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/magazine/volume_12_Issue_2/safety_talk_3-point_contact.pdf](https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/magazine/volume_12_Issue_2/safety_talk_3-point_contact.pdf)

- Safety Talk: securing loads
Questions?
Thank You!