

"Prevention is
our Intention"

Issued January 2005

Safety Partnership Group

Inside this Issue:

FEBRUARY FORUM

Leadership Skills

Ministry of Labour
Response

Ladder Safety Tip

Dates to Remember

Website of the Month

EMAIL

bbs@sarniasafety.com

To submit items
of interest
contact
Peter Stock

337-1716
Fax 383-1305

Industrial Educational Co-op
252 Chippewa Street
Sarnia, Ontario
N7T 8A9

www.sarniasafety.com

Safety Partnership



Zero incidents by choice through
Partnerships for Safety...

FREE!

WORKING SMART SEMINAR

It's the irony of the 21st century—the technology that's supposed to **free up** our time and make us more productive is more often the technology that **drains** us of our valuable time and fetters our productivity. There's no way out of this bind—unless we know how to harness the tools to serve our needs rather than us serving technology!

To make the most of these tools and explore the challenges of today's workplace, the IEC has teamed up with Andy Sherwood of Priority Manager to offer a **free** Executive Briefing on Working Smart Programs on March 1, 2005. This 2.5 hour session running from 8:00-10:30 will discuss solutions that can be applied the right away. Specifically, it will address:

- ◆ Recognizing that investment in workplace technology can actually steal productivity if not matched with best-practice processes
- ◆ Understanding how the 'digital deluge' of e-mail impacts your employees' ability to be effective daily
- ◆ Identifying how to leverage the functionality of Microsoft Outlook or Lotus Notes to drive individual and team results

You'll leave the session with immediate skills that will allow you and your team to start Working Smarter today. Space is limited.

Please contact Shelley Brown, People Skills Co-ordinator at (519) 383-7025 or e-mail shelleyb@sarniasafety.com to reserve your seat.

5th

ANNUAL
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
FORUM

FEBRUARY 15th FORUM

5th Annual Celebration

The Safety Partnership is pleased to announce the date for our 5th Annual February Forum. This Safety Event will be held at the Lambton Inn, (formerly the EuroCan Hotel) on London Road in Sarnia on Tuesday February 15th starting at 7:30 AM.

Further details will be available from our website and by e-mail to Contractor, Labour and Industry Representatives. A guest speaker has been chosen and we are excited at what we think will be an informative and very entertaining morning.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this celebration of the past four years of effort by a unique partnership of Industry, Labour and Contractors.

MINISTRY of LABOUR RESPONSE

Recently I received a written response from the Ministry of Labour regarding their policy of complying with local Health and Safety expectations. The appropriate paragraph reads as follows:

*Dear Mr. Stock,
I am very sorry for the delay between our telephone conversation and this written confirmation.
As I expressed to you, it is the intent of the Ministry of Labour to promote healthy and safe working conditions by leading by example. We expect that our inspectors would abide with safety requirements of the various worksites that go beyond the requirements of the Act when they are on proactive visits.
Yours truly,
Wayne De L'Orme
District Manager London North Office*

A copy of this letter could be made available for those interested by contacting me at: bbs@sarniasafety.com

I want to thank the Ministry of Labour's Wayne De L'Orme for his assistance in clarifying the expectations of his inspectors. Mr. De L'Orme has given me his office phone number if there are any further concerns from our workplaces.

The Ministry of Labour has been very busy lately with the hiring of over 100 new inspectors and also has recently launched a new website promoting health and safety, called the "Ontario Workplace Gateway". The link is:
www.cbs.gov.on.ca/obc/english/workplacegateway/index.htm

The Ontario Workplace Gateway

The Ontario Workplace Gateway outlines the responsibilities of both employers and workers under Ontario law to help ensure employment standards and workplace safety requirements are being met. The website also provides answers to frequently asked questions about health and safety, benefits and other topics.

"COULD YOU HOLD THIS LADDER SO I DON'T FALL?"

Everyone has been asked to hold a ladder steady. The person climbs the ladder. You put one foot on the bottom rung and brace the sides with your arms. It feels like it works. But a study of the practice has shown that it offers little or no protection against a fall.

Laurence Clift, a researcher with Britain's Loughborough University, studied a number of ladder bracing techniques (the "one foot two arms" method was the most common). He asked 52 people in 780 trials to perform activities from the ladder, such as reaching out and drilling, reaching out as far as possible (such as when painting), and lifting a loaded bucket up the ladder and retrieving it. These activities pushed the ladder toward failure.

Leverage was the main factor making "stabilizing" techniques ineffective.

"If the two individuals are roughly the same size, there is a huge amount of leverage in between -- pretty much rendering the bottom person's action irrelevant," said Clift.

Two effective alternatives are tying off the ladder and using top- and base-mounted stability devices.

(Source: Lydia Dumyn, "Helping hand no way to stop falls," OHS Canada, October/ November 2004)

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 19th: Plant Safety Meeting

January 25th: Annual Safety Partnership Planning meeting at the Village Inn

February 15th: Safety Partnership Forum

February 24th: IEC Executive meeting

February 24th Safety Partnership Exec meeting

**LET'S ALL STRIVE TO HAVE A
SAFE & HAPPY 2005!**

WEBSITE of the MONTH
www.makesafetyfun.com