

"Prevention is
our Intention"

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Safety Partnership Group

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Safety Partnership



**Zero incidents by choice through
Partnerships for Safety...**

Electrical Awareness Training from the IEC:

The IEC is introducing a new electrical awareness training package for industrial and electrical contractor workers. This program consists of the following four modules:

- 1) Arc Flash Hazard Awareness (4 hours)
- 2) Electrical PPE (2 hours)
- 3) Electrical Work Practices (2 hours)
- 4) Electrical Awareness for Electricians (2 hours)

Former IOL employee, Fred Strickland, has been selected to deliver these four modules. The modules can be delivered separately or in groups of two or more to best suit the individual schedules of prospective students in these classes. We are prepared to deliver open classes here at the IEC as well as delivering this material at plant sites for their own workers. Cards will be issued by the IEC as a record of training.

Contact Peter Stock for more information about this exciting new program.

Young Worker/ New Worker Working Group Meeting

Research shows that the first four weeks are a critical time for young workers or workers that are new to the job regardless of their age.

The reasons these workers are getting hurt are:

- 1) Poor hazard perception
- 2) Poor risk perception
- 3) Poor self assessment of their own skills
- 4) High acceptance of risk
- 5) Trouble understanding and applying general safety orientation training

This Safety Partnership Working Group sees mentoring and the daily safety talk as being key steps in reducing injuries with this group.

This summer we will be asking contractors and union leaders about their mentoring programs as well as looking at what other training is available for this vulnerable worker.

If you have any ideas that you could contribute, please contact Peter Stock at:

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New Heat Stress Guideline Published The Legal Requirements:

Employers have a duty under section 25(2)(h) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

This includes developing hot environment policies and procedures to protect workers in hot environments due to hot processes or hot weather.

For compliance purposes, the Ministry of Labour recommends the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for Heat Stress and Heat Strain published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).

These values are based on preventing un-acclimatized workers' core temperatures from rising above 38 degrees C.

This new guideline can be downloaded from this link:

www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pdf/gl_heat.pdf

Toothpaste Warning

Health Canada is investigating suspected counterfeit toothpaste found in Southern Ontario that is similar to a product at the centre of a health recall throughout the United States because of fears it contains an ingredient used in antifreeze.

Steve Janke, 40, bought a tube of what purports to be Colgate brand toothpaste labeled as being manufactured in South Africa from a dollar store in Guelph, Ontario.

The packaging was missing the French translation found on most Canadian products and the 100-millilitre tube was labeled as being manufactured by Colgate-Palmolive (PTY) Ltd. in South Africa.

The actual main packaging looks fine, but the small print on the cardboard box was riddled with spelling errors, often mistaking the letter 'L' for 'I' and vice versa, so that "should" became "shoud" and "against" became "agalnst." The brand name was misspelled as "Coigate."

The U.S. FDA issued a nationwide alert last month after finding similarly labeled tubes in four states. Some contained the chemical diethylene glycol (DEG), a cheap glycerine substitute found in antifreeze and brake fluid.

Colgate-Palmolive has told U.S. authorities it does not sell the 100-ml tubes in the United States and it does not import toothpaste from South Africa.

The FDA said the chemical poses "a low health risk" but a Staten Island newspaper in New York reported two people were hospitalized for nausea and abdominal pain after brushing their teeth with the phony Colgate.

Health Canada spokesperson Paul Duschene said consumers should look for an eight-digit identification, or DIN number, in order to ensure they're buying products that have been assessed by the agency for their safety.

Other numbers to look for are NPN numbers for natural products, and DIN-HM numbers for homeopathic products.

Summer Boating Safety:

Last year, 80 per cent of boating-related fatalities in OPP patrolled waters occurred when people weren't wearing life-jackets or personal flotation devices.

At least 60 per cent of this year's deaths have also involved people not wearing life-jackets or flotation devices, the OPP says. What message are you getting about life-jackets?

Ontario Adopts Voluntary Ergonomics Program to Protect Workers

It might be hard to persuade management to invest resources to minimize ergonomic hazards at your workplace. After all, injuries caused by poor design, repetitive motion and excessive force or vibration; alternately called musculoskeletal, soft tissue or repetitive motion injuries may appear less dramatic than other injuries.

So these types of injuries command less respect from a company's corporate decision makers than a fall injury or amputation. But dismissing Musculoskeletal Injuries (MSIs) is a major mistake.

There are two compelling reasons that companies must pay serious attention to ergonomic hazards:

- 1) MSIs account for a high percentage of all workplace injuries. In Ontario, for example, MSIs account for 42% of all lost time claims & is rising.
- 2) The OHS laws require employers to protect workers from ergonomic hazards, and the regulators are getting serious about enforcing this requirement.

The most notable example is the Ontario Ministry of Labour, which, on April 1, 2006, launched a new program called **Operation Pains and Strains**, a series of initiatives designed to reduce MSIs in the workplace, including stepped up inspections of workplaces with a history of MSIs.

The MOL and WSIB have published an information sheet, available at:

http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/ergonomics/is_ergonomics.html, to help employers identify ergonomic risks.