



WCB update

September 2009

SAFE on Site Program Helps to Decrease Time Loss Injuries

The SAFE on Site program was created to enhance injury prevention in the construction industry by providing contractors with safety awareness and promoting a positive safety culture.

Three and a half years in, the program is making an impact.

Since 2006, when the SAFE on Site program began, the time loss injury rate in the construction sector—including both heavy construction and building construction—has decreased by 11 per cent. The time loss injury rate per 100 full time equivalent workers dropped from 9.1 in 2006 to 8.1 in 2008.

Developed in response to the escalating numbers of injuries being reported in the construction sector, the SAFE on Site program was a joint initiative between SAFE Work, the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba and the Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program.

The goal of the program was to increase the awareness of workers, supervisors and business owners within the construction industry of their rights and responsibilities, while helping them identify worksite hazards and become familiar with personal protective equipment.

“The nature of the construction sector is that there are multiple, ever changing worksites, making it challenging for safety advisors and Workplace Safety and Health Officers to get to all of them,” says Darren Oryniak, Director, SAFE Work Services at the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba. “The concept of SAFE on Site was to take the information directly to the supervisors and workers on the site.”

This includes doing site reviews to inform workers and worksites about compliance with Workplace Safety & Health regulations, while encouraging SAFE Work practices and sharing information regarding legislation and the safety association programs for the industry: the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM) and the Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program.

“The best thing about the program is that it creates awareness of the fact that we’re out there to help our contractors while raising awareness of prevention and safety organizations,” says Stan Kruse, Director, Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program. “At first, it was a challenge getting employers to understand the benefits of safety programs in human and financial costs. Even though it’s a win-win scenario and leads to a more productive and efficient



workplace, in the past it was just viewed as a cost. Fortunately, the industry is embracing the message now.”

Back in 2006, SAFE Work funded the program and hired two graduates of the Occupational Health and Safety Course at Red River College. At the time, one intern worked with each of the industry’s safety associations focusing on the identified areas with the greatest concern.

“Since the program began, we have had several excellent safety interns come through the program and some of them have been hired on full-time by the safety associations while others have been hired by private companies as safety coordinators,” says Sean Scott, Executive Director, Construction Safety Association of Manitoba. “The program is helping build the capacity of safety professionals in the province.”

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Opportunity to Participate in Rural Health and Safety Groups

The MFL Occupational Health Centre, Inc. (OHC) is looking for workplaces in rural Manitoba to participate in health and safety groups to share information, resources and best practices at the community level with the goal of improving everyone's safety programs.

Funded by the WCB's Community Initiatives and Research Program, the purpose of this initiative is to develop and implement Health and Safety Groups in rural Manitoba with an emphasis on health and safety programs and ergonomics.

The initiative has been providing free teleconference education sessions and on-site services. For a list of previous education sessions, presentations and resources, please visit www.mflohc.mb.ca > Special Projects > Safe Work Groups in Rural Manitoba.

Benefits of participating include:

- Gaining an awareness of health and safety issues
- Reducing injuries, WCB claims and related costs
- Networking with others in your community and similar workplaces throughout the province
- Being recognized as a community leader for workplace safety and health.

The MFL Occupational Health Centre is looking for more workplaces in the following established areas:

- Eastern Manitoba – Steinbach area
- Interlake and Selkirk area
- Parkland – Dauphin area
- Western Manitoba – Brandon area
- Northern Manitoba – Thompson area
- Southern Manitoba – Morden/Winkler area

If you're interested in participating, please contact Andrew Dolhy at **926-7906**, toll free at **1-888-843-1229** or by e-mail at adolhy@mflohc.mb.ca.

North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Awards Presented to Organizations Committed to Safety



The annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Awards took place at the WCB on August 27, recognizing the safety and prevention efforts of Manitoba workplaces during NAOSH Week.

Sponsored by the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE), NAOSH Week focuses on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace. It was held May 3 to 9, with the theme of "Make It Home Safe Every Day!"

"Prevention awareness among workers and the general public is essential to increasing workplace safety," says Jeff Philpott, President, Manitoba Chapter of the CSSE. "NAOSH Week provides an important reminder to employers, workers and communities that safety should be a priority all year long."

"The WCB's vision, SAFE Work – A Way of Life, represents our commitment to building a safety culture in Manitoba," says Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO. "We continue to work with our partners towards preventing injuries and lowering the time loss injury rate in the province."

Awards were presented to nine Manitoba workplaces in recognition of their safety efforts during NAOSH Week. They include:

- New Flyer Industries – Best Overall
- Barkman Concrete Ltd. and Loewen (tie) – Most Innovative
- CFB Shilo – Best Representation of a Theme
- Motor Coach Industries – Best New Entry
- Contempora Steel Builders – Small Employer
- The Fairmont Winnipeg – Honourable Mention
- Pollard Banknote – Honourable Mention
- Red River College – Honourable Mention

"We are very honoured at New Flyer to be the recipient of this award," says Rob Beal, Safety Coordinator, New Flyer Industries Canada ULC. "Receiving this award is a testament of our overall commitment, participation and promotion of safety and health activities and awareness at our workplace and in our community."



Sean Scott, Executive Director, Construction Safety Association of Manitoba, presents the Best Overall NAOSH 2009 Award to New Flyer Industries.

Personal and Optional Coverage

Workers' compensation coverage protects workers in the event that they are injured in the workplace, and ensures that they receive the benefits they need to return to health and work as soon as possible. It also protects employers from lawsuit in the event of a workplace injury.

For business owners and industries that are not covered by workers' compensation, they can purchase one of two coverage packages.

The first is Personal Coverage (also known as Special Coverage), which protects business owners in the event of a workplace injury or illness. The second is Optional Coverage, which protects workers in industries that are excluded from mandatory coverage.

Effective July 1, 2009, the WCB introduced the Terms and Conditions of Optional Coverage Policy to help employers understand how the coverage packages are implemented.

The purchase of either of these coverages means that you and/or your workers will be eligible for WCB benefits and services if there is a workplace injury or occupational disease. The benefits and services include:

- Wage loss benefits – based on verifiable earnings up to a maximum of \$400,000
- Medical aid expenses such as medication or prosthetic devices
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Benefits for dependants in the case of a workplace fatality
- Transportation and living allowances if travel is required for proper treatment
- Permanent partial impairment awards.

Personal coverage may be beneficial for business owners if their firm obtains a contract and the terms of the contract state that all individuals, not just the workers, be covered on the jobsite for liability purposes.

How much do these coverages cost?

The cost of coverage depends on two factors:

- 1) the industry within which the business operates (rates vary according to risk); and
- 2) the amount of coverage being purchased.

For Personal Coverage, the amount of the assessment is based on the amount of coverage purchased, which must be between \$19,673 and \$400,000.

For Optional Coverage, the amount of the assessment is based on the total assessable payroll of all their workers.

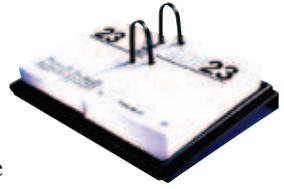
To learn more about these coverages, visit www.wcb.mb.ca > About WCB > Policy Manual. Policy 35.10.120 – Terms and Conditions of Optional Coverage can be found in this listing.

If you have questions or would like to apply for coverage, please call Assessment Services at **954-4505** or toll free at **1-800-362-3340**.



WCB's Human Resource Coordinator Orlando Rivera provides information to a job seeker at Amik.ca's first annual Aboriginal Career Mixer in Winnipeg on August 20. The career event was one of many attended by the WCB throughout the year, as the organization strives to be a community leader and attract a diverse workforce reflective of workers across Manitoba.

Dates to Remember



October 20, 2009 – The Quarterly Remittance for the third quarter of 2009 and payment must be received at the WCB for firms reporting on a quarterly basis.

October 31, 2009 – The third installment payment must be received at the WCB for firms reporting on an annual basis and paying in installments.



Don't Fall into Fall – Employ Fall Protection at Residential Construction Sites

The summer months may be drawing to a close but that doesn't mean the end of construction season for residential contractors anxious to get those last-minute renovations completed.

Those who work on homes and other residential property must remember their risk for injury and incident is just as high as those working on larger commercial projects – and they must also take precautions to prevent themselves from getting hurt or hurting others.

“The key to fall prevention is two-fold: employers need to develop, implement and train workers on safe work procedures, and workers must ensure that they comply with those procedures,” says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith.

By reviewing fall protection information and putting safe work procedures in place before starting work on residential construction sites, renovators are taking a vital step towards preventing injury. Whether you're a small contractor or part of a large residential construction company, the Manitoba fall protection regulation applies to you.

Fall protection is required when working at heights of three metres (10 feet) or more, or at heights less than three metres if working near a dangerous area.

For new construction, full fall protection systems such as guardrails, travel restraint, fall arrest or safety net are required on all roof work.



Using fall protection systems like guardrails, fall arrests and safety nets when doing residential construction is critical to saving lives.

Always remember to:

- Cover surface openings securely and label the cover.
- Fit the full body harness to the worker and ensure it is in good condition.

- Allow one worker per anchor.
- Follow safe work procedures when putting up wood trusses.

For more information, visit www.safemanitoba.com and click on Prevention Materials > Guidelines.

Update is also available in a large print version.

Return undeliverable copies to:

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