

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations Delayed

We have received a number of calls regarding the expected amendments to the General Safety Regulation. There has been a further extension for the date of passing the changes to this regulation, as well as to the other occupational health and safety regulations. Given the number of delays in the passing of these amendments, the government is probably getting a little apprehensive about suggesting or committing to a specific time frame. It seems unlikely that the regulations will be passed this spring, and it is anyone's guess as to when they will now be passed. Fall 2002 has been suggested as a reasonable time frame.

Mini-Conference Update

In the January "Safety News" we floated out the idea of regional mini-conferences. The idea would be to have informal sessions that address the questions, concerns, interests of our members. (Check the January issue [Jan 2002](#) for more information.) We got a few calls about this, but the response was not overwhelming. We're not willing to give up on the idea yet - we think there might be some interest, but you are just shy about expressing it.

So now what? We did receive some feedback from northwest Alberta, Edmonton area and southwest Alberta. Therefore we will tentatively look at the following:

- Northwest Alberta: June 20
- Edmonton area (our office in Nisku): June 26
- Southwest Alberta: July 9

If you are interested in participating and/or hosting one of these sessions, give us a call. If we get a poor response, we'll have to put this onto the back burner (for now).

New Video

AMHSA recently purchased a couple copies of a new health and safety video: Job Safety Analysis. This video helps viewers identify and control hazards to workers by conducting a job safety analysis on specific jobs or tasks. The analysis consists of 3 elements:

- breaking the job into its basic steps
- looking at all the hazards associated with each step
- analysing the degree of risk of the hazards, and recommending controls if required

The video demonstrates the process using a real life example.

This video (as with all our videos) is available on a one week rental basis for \$25.00 plus shipping/handling.

Workplace Fatalities in 2001

Alberta Workplace Health and Safety investigated a number of workplace fatalities in 2001. One

municipal employee was killed. In some of the incidents the work was being done for a municipality through a contract arrangement. Several other fatalities happened to workers who were performing work that could typically occur in the municipal sector. We encourage you to review these incidents and make sure that you have procedures in place to prevent similar incidents from happening to your staff or contractors.

For more information on any of these fatalities, contact Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Workplace Health and Safety, at 1-866-415-8690, or visit their website at www.whs.gov.ab.ca

- A worker was killed when he was run over by a front-end loader. The loader operator felt some bumps, went to investigate and found the worker under the loader.
- A worker was killed when he got caught in the tracks of a piece of road building machinery and was run over. It appears that he got off the equipment to clear something from it, while it was still running.
- A worker, employed as a flag person was struck and killed by a motorist. The worker was standing behind a company 1/2 ton truck, equipped with an illuminated signboard. He was directing traffic into the passing lane when the motorist attempted to pass other motorists by going through the construction lane.
- A worker was killed while working on a library extension. The worker had been lying on top of some metal ductwork in a ceiling space, twisting some live electrical wires together and was electrocuted.
- A worker was killed while excavating a trench for the installation of services to a new home. The worker, a backhoe operator, entered the trench to locate and uncover the service ends. The area superintendent noticed the backhoe running, and found the worker buried up to his neck.
- A worker was killed when he fell and struck his head. He had been installing an overhead door, working on a manufactured sawhorse which was located on a single lift of scaffold.
- A worker was killed when he was struck by a bundle of posts which were on a truck. He was going to unload the posts from the truck, and removed several straps before forklifts could get into position to stabilize the load. He was struck by part of the load.
- A police officer was accidentally shot during a training exercise.

PIR Update

For those of you in the PIR program, you are probably wondering what the results were for 2001.

- All internal and external audits were reviewed by AMSHA for quality assurance purposes. Auditors have recently been provided feedback on the quality their audit(s).
- All municipalities that were successful in their external audits should have received, or will receive shortly, their Certificate of Recognition, signed jointly by Alberta Human Resources & Employment and AMHSA.
- The financial incentives provided by the WCB will be sent to eligible municipalities in spring (usually late May).
- In February/March AMHSA will send letters to the Chief Administrative Officers of participating municipalities. These letters will provide each municipality with their individual results for 2001, and their requirements for 2002. CAO's should review this information, share it with their auditors, and contact AMHSA if they have any questions.