

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week is a North American wide initiative that involves the participation of Canada, United States and Mexico. Its purpose is to increase understanding of the benefits of investing in occupational health and safety, raise awareness of the roles and contributions of safety and health professionals, and reduce the incidence of workplace injuries and illness.

This year NAOSH week is scheduled for the week of May 5th - 11th. The national theme for 2002 is "Prevention is the Cure".

NAOSH week will provide opportunities for municipalities to get the safety message out to the community, and demonstrate leadership in injury prevention. Some activities that municipalities can undertake to promote NAOSH week, and health and safety in the workplace include:

- declaration of NAOSH week by the mayor or reeve
- health and safety displays at shopping malls, municipal offices, etc
- employee recognition events (awards, luncheons, etc)
- posters, newspaper articles, etc

Day of Mourning

Each year, April 28th is set aside to recognize workers who have died during the course of their work. *Every year, more than 100 Alberta workers die on the job.* In 2001 there were 118 fatalities covered by WCB in Alberta. In addition more than 41,400 workers lost time from work as a result of a work related injury or illness.

The Canadian Labour Congress first proclaimed this day in 1986. The Canadian government has also recognized April 28th as the Day of Mourning through proclamation of Bill C-233, the Workers' Mourning Act in 1991. Canadian workers will be joined by workers in the United States in observing this day, as the American Federation of Labor has also adopted the Day of Mourning into its calendar.

We encourage all municipalities and their staff to take some time on April 28 to recognize this day.

Over One Million Dollars!

That's right! There is over \$1,000,000 available to be refunded back to municipalities that participated in the Partners in Injury Reduction Program in 2001. A total of 118 Alberta municipalities participated in the PIR program last year. This represents 92% of the total municipal payroll.

Of the 118 municipalities that participated, 76 met the program requirements and will receive a refund. (Note that municipalities must have a CoR in order to obtain a refund.) These 76 municipalities will get approximately \$860,000 back from the WCB.

Municipalities are eligible to receive a refund of 5% - 20% of the industry premium rates, depending on their claims management performance. The following table shows the types of refunds that municipalities will receive.

Type of Refund	Refund Range	# Eligible Municipalities
Improving your Performance	5% - 10%	2
	11% - 15%	0
	16% - 20%	35
Maintaining Industry Leadership	10%	3
	12.5%	3
	15%	0
	20%	4
Certificate of Recognition	5%	29

AMHSA Annual General Meeting ►► April 17, 2002

Our annual general meeting will be held on April 17th, 2002 starting at 10:00, at the AMHSA office in Nisku. Our 2001 annual report has been mailed to each municipality, with an invitation to attend this meeting. The AGM is a great opportunity to learn about AMHSA's activities over the past year, and provide your input into our future direction. Each municipality may have one voting delegate at the meeting; the authorization form to represent your municipality at the meeting is included with the annual report. Please call us if you have any questions. We hope to see you then.

Calling all Certified Auditors....

As you know, your certification as an AMHSA Peer Auditor is valid for 3 years, assuming you conduct a program audit at least once every calendar year. After 3 years, your certificate expires. So please have a look at your certificate, to see if you need to renew your certification. Your certificate will indicate the date of issue as well as the expiry date.

If your certificate expires in 2002, you will need to take the recertification course if you wish to continue as a Peer Auditor. (Even if your certificate does not expire, but you would like to have a refresher on the audit tool and procedures, you are welcome to participate.)

We have selected the following dates to offer the recertification. There is no fee to take the recertification course. Note that these sessions will only run if there is sufficient interest on the part of auditors.

- Grande Prairie - June 19
- Nisku - June 25
- Calgary - July 10
- Red Deer - July 17
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And for those who want to be an Auditor....

There was quite a bit of interest shown in the Health and Safety Program Development, and Health and Safety Program Audit courses this spring. We offered them in Cochrane and Nisku in April, and the Nisku session has sold out! Because of this level of interest, we are willing to offer them again.

Health and Safety Program Development - 2 days (\$60)

Health and Safety Program Audit - 2 days (\$60) Note that the Development course is a prerequisite for this one.

Please call our office if you are interested, or would like more information. Once we know the level of interest, and home bases of potential participants, we can choose a time and location.

And the Winners Are:

AMHSA had a booth at the recent LGA and AAMD&C tradeshow, and held draws at each. The winners of those draws are:

- LGA tradeshow, March 20 & 21:
 - Carol Revega, Village of Thorhild - a set of AMHSA coffee mugs
 - Harry Aspin, Village of Berwyn - a set of health and safety manuals created by Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
- AAMD&C tradeshow, March 25:
 - Darlene Bergeron, County of St Paul - basket of coffees and teas

Congratulations to all the winners!