

**January 2004**

# Happy New Year!



The staff and board of AMHSA would like to wish you all the best in 2004. We hope this new year brings you health and happiness. Please give us a call if you need any help with your health and safety initiatives.

## Where is the Spring Course Schedule?

Some of you have been asking about our spring course schedule; we usually send it out with our December newsletter, and the courses start in late January. But we didn't send anything out this year, and forgot to tell you why. Oops! We are currently updating many of our courses, partly as a result of the changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code, and partly just because it was time. We haven't completed the updates yet, but didn't want to teach any of the courses when we knew they were being changed. So we're holding off for now. We hope to be done this process by mid February, and will work on a schedule to start in March. This will make for a late spring season, and we apologize for that. If anyone would like to book some courses on site, we can set up some dates starting at this time also.

### Some courses are still going, though...

The **Defensive Driving** course was revised this past year, and can be booked for your site. Defensive Driving is \$50.00 per person. The workshop on the **OHS Act, Regulation and Code** is also going ahead as planned. The cost of the **Code** course is \$85.00 per person, and includes a copy of the new OH&S Act, Regulation and Code. The dates and locations for the scheduled OHS workshops are as follows:

OHS Act, Regulation & Code Workshops	
Location	Date
Grande Prairie	Wednesday, February 4
Edson	Wednesday, February 11
Stony Plain	Tuesday, February 10
Lloydminster	Tuesday, February 18
Red Deer	Thursday, February 26
Drumheller - <b>FULL</b>	Thursday, January 15
Drumheller, 2nd session	Tuesday, February 3
Okotoks	Monday, January 12
Lethbridge	Tuesday, January 13

Call Lorraine at 1-800-267-9764 if you would like to register for one of these dates, or would like to schedule either the Defensive Driving or Code course at your worksite.

## And what are the costs for these courses anyway?

When the courses are updated, and we offer our spring schedule, there will be some fee increases. Fees (per person) are as follows:

Course	new rate (municipal)	new rate (associate)
<b>Defensive Driving</b>	\$50.00	\$75.00
<b>Operator Courses</b>	\$150.00	\$200.00
<b>Other 1 day courses (other than defensive driving and operator)</b>	no change	no change
<b>2 day courses</b>	\$75.00	\$150.00
<b>1/2 day courses</b>	no change	no change

The fees are the same, regardless of whether you book an on-site course or attend a scheduled course. However for on-site courses we require a minimum number of participants (4 - minimum/maximum for the operator courses; 10 - minimum for all others).

## Annual Awards for Innovation in Workplace Health and Safety

These annual awards, administered by the Occupational Health and Safety Council, were initiated in 2003 and recognize the most innovative health and safety initiatives in Alberta workplaces over the previous year. All types of innovation relating to occupational health and safety are considered; examples include management of workplace impairment issues, planning for safety at the design stage of projects, the use of engineering controls to replace the necessity for personal protective equipment, the development of worker and manager competencies, etc.

The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge the efforts of individuals, organizations and companies in the prevention of workplace incidents, injuries and illnesses, and to encourage the implementation of programs, policies and projects that will improve health and safety in the workplace.

There are 8 categories (the municipal sector falls into Public Administration, Education and Health Services) and two types of awards for each category.

Award applications must be received by the Council no later than February 15, 2004. To get a copy of the application form and for more information, go to [www.whs.gov.ab.ca](http://www.whs.gov.ab.ca), or give us a call at 1-800-267-9764 and we can fax you the information.

## **Bill C-45: Stronger Laws affecting the Criminal Liability of Organizations**

Bill C-45 was passed in Ottawa on October 31, 2003. The legislation imposes a legal duty on all those who direct work, including employers, to take reasonable measure to protect employee and public safety. Wanton or reckless disregard of this duty causing death or bodily harm would result in a charge of criminal negligence. This Bill amends the Criminal Code to hold organizations criminally liable:

- as a result of the actions of senior officers who oversee day-to-day operations but who may not be directors or executives;
- when officers with executive or operational authority intentionally commit, or direct employees to commit, crimes to benefit the organization;
- when officers with executive or operational authority become aware of offences being committed by other employees but do not take actions to stop them; and
- when the actions of those with authority and other employees, taken as a whole, demonstrate a lack of care that constitutes negligence.

The term "organization" refers to a variety of group structures, including a public body, a company or partnership.

Currently in Alberta, if an organization seriously violated the Occupational Health and Safety Act, it can be prosecuted under the Act, but the case is not considered "criminal". This amendment gives the justice system more options in prosecutions for health and safety violations.