

ALBERTA MUNICIPAL HEALTH & SAFETY ASSOCIATION

AMHSA's Moving!

As announced earlier AMHSA is on the move! In order to accommodate this relocation we will be closing the office from July 7th – July 21st. During this time AMHSA's northern location will not be operational.

Our new address will be:

~~#160, 283 Broadmoor Blvd
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2K8~~

#160, 2833 Broadmoor Blvd.
Sherwood Park , AB T8H 2H3

After July 21st you will be able to contact us at our new **phone # (780)417-3900** (local in the greater Edmonton area) and our **fax # (780)417-3940** and our toll free # 1(800)267-9764 will remain the same.

Please update your records and ensure that after July 15th all information, inquiries, payments, invoices, etc...are directed to our new address.

Alberta Infrastructure Requires a COR to Work

Some of our members have recently found out that Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation will no longer contract their road maintenance projects to employers not possessing a COR. The stand from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is as follows:

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe work place for consultants, contractors, and government employees. For this reason the Department requires most contractors and consultants working on Department contracts to have safety certification that is recognized by Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Workplace Health and Safety. (A small employer's certificate of recognition is not considered acceptable by the Department.)

A valid COR is a mandatory requirement for the following types of work:

- All construction services work for highways, bridges and water management projects;
- All highway/bridge maintenance;
- All consulting agreements, where the work is classified to be high hazard as defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations
Municipal vendors who do not currently possess a COR, but wish to obtain information about obtaining a COR should contact AMHSA.

Partnerships & PIR Update

Congratulations to all of you participating in the Partnerships program. It's wonderful to see the commitment to health and safety demonstrated through participation in this program. Eighty-one municipalities met all the program requirements in 2005 by obtaining or maintaining a Certificate of Recognition, and participating in disability management training. These municipalities will receive PIR refunds from the Workers' Compensation Board of somewhere between 5% and 20% of their industry premiums. This will amount to \$2,357,287 for these 81 municipalities! The WCB will send out refund cheques in late May.

More \$\$'s returned from WCB

In addition to the rebate achieved through the Partnership/PIR Program, most Alberta Employers can expect to receive a Special Dividends cheque in late May, equal to roughly 40% of WCB contributions in 2005. In total this dividend will amount to over \$433 million coming back to Alberta Employers. Please see the attached Information Release from WCB for more information or check the WCB website at www.wcb.ab.ca.

Both WCB and AMHSA are encouraging these recipients to re-invest these funds back into their safety Systems.

Mark your Calendars - Upcoming Conferences

Later in 2006 there are two health and safety conferences that AMHSA gets involved in:

- Health & Safety Conference Society of Alberta: this year's theme is "Health & Safety – A Balancing Act" and will be held in Edmonton November 20th – 22nd. More information can be accessed via their website at: www.hsconference.com
- RUSA/ACSC/AMHSA Safety and Utilities Conference: December 4th – 7th in Red Deer. Trade show registration has begun and space is limited so register early. More information can be found at www.rusa.ca

Schedule Your 2006 Audit!

If you are due for an external audit this year and have not yet contacted our office please ensure you have done so before August 15th. Contact Susan at 1(800)267-9764 or by email susan@amhsa.net to ensure that your audit does not get missed!

Cancer in the Workplace

The Alberta Cancer Board, Alberta Human Resources and Employment (Workplace Health & Safety), and an occupational physician have developed a new resource tool for workers. [Cancer and the Workplace](#) provides information on general cancer prevention, as well as prevention of exposure to occupational carcinogens.

Occupational exposures

In the workplace, people may be exposed to much higher levels of carcinogens than in the general environment. Occupational exposures may account for at least 5% of cancer deaths. Although this estimate may seem low, these cancers concentrate in exposed subgroups of the population, contributing significantly to the risk of cancer. Furthermore, exposure is involuntary and can, to a large extent, be prevented. Provincial regulations have reduced carcinogen exposure levels to workers in most industries; however, workers should be familiar with the Material Safety Data Sheets associated with the substances with which they work and follow all health and safety instructions when handling chemicals.

Please go to the link below, and look for the [Cancer and the Workplace](#) publication, review it and share the information with your co-workers.

http://www.cancerboard.ab.ca/pdf/cancer_prevention/phi_cancer_workplace_2006.pdf

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