

Municipal Safety Newsletter - May 2007

External Audit 2007

If your municipality requires an external audit in 2007, please send your written request to AMHSA by April 15th, including the following information:

- Name of municipality, mailing address, website URL
- Contact person, telephone, fax, email
- Number of employees, scope of audit (number of departments/sites)
- Names of AMHSA-Certified Auditors (to perform external on another municipality) and contact information (phone, email)
- Preferred month for audit to be performed

Questions? Contact [Susan Klingspor](#) or [Shannon Thomas](#).

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Health and Safety Training Awards

Each year, AMHSA recognizes municipalities for their commitment to health and safety training, based on the number of training participants compared to the total number of full-time employees. AMHSA congratulates the following 2006 health and safety training award winners:

- County of Two Hills
- Town of Devon
- City of Grande Prairie
- M.D. of Opportunity
- Village of New Norway
- Village of Lougheed
- M.D. of Rocky View



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Partners in Injury Reduction (PIR) Refunds

92 AMHSA employers qualified to receive a 2006 PIR refund, for a total of \$2,186,126.96.

- Since PIR started in 2000, registration in the program has tripled.
- In 2006, 59.2% of Alberta's workforce was employed by a PIR employer.
- The number of employers qualifying for a refund grew by more than 10% from 2005.
- 6,866 employers qualified for a PIR refund in 2006.
- The total rebate for 2006 was \$73.4 million.

[See Statistics Online.](#)

The success of the PIR program is due to the combined efforts of all participants - employers, certifying partners, Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, and WCB-Alberta.

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Workplace Safety: An Investment that Pays

Alberta employers are proving that safety and growth can go hand in hand. While many are enjoying growth in every area of their businesses, committed employers are also showing that they have the tools to manage safety in their workplaces, and that partnerships work.

"What's so great about these rebates is that they are the result of strong partnerships," says Guy Kerr, president and CEO, WCB-Alberta. "PIR represents the efforts of many people and organizations working together: some companies that are safety leaders and others that have worked hard to improve their performance, certifying partners that mentor them, government partners that set the standards for safety, and WCB employees who provide support to employers and workers when injuries happen."

Source: [Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta News Release](#), April 18, 2007.

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Selected Upcoming AMHSA Courses

Course	Date	Location
	May	Mountain

Road Grader Operator Safety	May 11	Mountain View
Backhoe/Loader Operator Safety	May 15	Canmore
Hazard Identification & Control	May 15	Red Deer
Formal Workplace Inspections	May 15	Red Deer
	May 15	Springbank Park
Defensive Driving	May 17	Springbank Park
Joint Health and Safety Committees	May 17	Springbank Park
Defensive Driving	May 23	Youngstown
WHMIS Train-the-Trainer	May 23	Calgary
Health and Safety Management Systems - SECOR (pilot offering)	May 28	Holden
Health and Safety Management Systems	May 29	Strathcona County
Skid Steer Loader Operator Safety	June 8	CUPE 37 - Calgary
Health and Safety Management Systems - Audit	June 11	Strathcona County
Workplace Violence Prevention	June 12	Edmonton
Defensive Driving	June 14	Strathcona County
	Aug 11	Leduc County

To register or to request an on-site course, call Lorraine at (780) 417-3900 or toll-free 1-800-267-9764. [Complete course listings.](#)

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WCB Special Dividend

The WCB-Alberta is expected to distribute a Special Dividend in May 2007 based on 2006 operating results. Watch the mail!

For the second year, safety associations have been invited to apply for funding for one-time health and safety initiatives before the special dividend is distributed to employers paying the respective levy.

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WCB-PIR Report Production Changes

A group of reports was created in 1990 to support employers' disability management efforts. In the past, these reports have been distributed through mail and fax. Last year thousands of PIR employers began accessing their reports through the WCB's web-based Loss Control Reporting Application.

In an effort to provide reports and records in the most convenient, secure and efficient manner possible, PIR reports will only be available through the web-based Loss Control Reporting Application.

The three key reasons for the change to online reports are:

1. **Convenience** - detailed information is available at a click of a button, and employers have access to a suite of valuable reports.
2. **Security** - information is reliable and secure. The WCB obligation under privacy legislation is diligence in handling confidential information. The LCR application involves little risk of employers receiving information they aren't supposed to have, or one employer receiving another employer's reports.
3. **Efficient Use of Resources** - employers will control the information requested and the timing of the printing of reports. By reducing the costs of mail outs, improving efficiency by utilizing existing technology, and reducing paper waste, the switch to the LCR application will help the WCB experience savings.

WCB-Alberta will be sending letters regarding year-end results and notices about this change to PIR employers. Instructions for signing up for the LCR system will be included. For additional information, call (780) 498-7936 or contact eBusiness Support at (780) 498-7688.

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