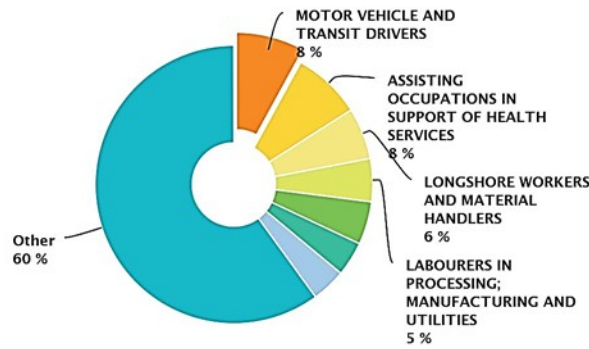


Lost-Time Claims: Some Things Never Change

Every year the WSIB prepares a statistical report, which provides insight into health and safety in Ontario's workplaces. The last full report, at the time of writing this, is the 2019 WSIB Statistical Report, which was published during 2020. It can be accessed on the WSIB website, by clicking on the link [WSIB Statistics](#): A review of some of that data can provide some surprises.

For example, in 2019 the leading group of employees, with respect to allowed lost-time claims, were between the ages of 55 and 59 employed as motor vehicle drivers and transit drivers.



The specific cause of the claims, however, was not what you might immediately associate with drivers. It was slips and falls on the same level (walkways and floors). In fact, of the seven leading occupations with respect to numbers of injuries, slips and falls were the leading sources in three of them. Across all of Schedule 1, the leading injury event was overexertion (18%), followed by fall on the same level (17%).

It has been this way for some time. Several decades ago, slips and falls were the leading cause of injury according to the WSIB. The number 1 slot was taken over when all of the soft tissue injury categories were combined under the general heading of musculoskeletal injuries. But slips and falls have always made up a significant portion of the WSIB claims every year. Is this true in your workplace?

There are a number of new and interesting hazards that have come into the workplaces of Ontario in the last decade, and you need to assess the impact of these changes on your workplace and on your health and safety program. But, are you continuing to have slips and falls accidents, year after year? Even seasoned health and safety professionals can fall into the trap of ignoring the, on average, 17% of claims annually, and focusing on the new, exciting, sexy health and safety topics. Chances are, if you could stop your people from falling down, you could reduce your annual accident numbers by, well, 17%.

At your next H&S meeting there are some things you could do to focus on this problem. Plot all of your 2020 slips and falls on a map of your workplace. Sometimes this pinpoints the problem quickly. Review your footwear policy to see if it still fits your workplace. Talk to your supervisors about actually enforcing the policy. How long since your JHSC did a good review of slips and falls in your workplace?

It's probably time.

This Months Tip:

Construction Inspections

Workplace Inspectors to Visit 1,300 Construction Sites Beginning April 15, 2021

The Ontario government will begin targeted province wide inspections of construction sites this Friday, dispatching 200 workplace inspectors, supported by provincial offenses officers, to visit 1,300 construction sites to enforce safety requirements.

Officers will also be visiting over 500 workplaces, including big box stores, food processors, manufacturers and warehouses, in Ottawa, Toronto and York Region, which have been identified as hot spots for COVID-19.

Think about it.

Safetyscope Upcoming courses

Working @ Heights May 7, 21
W@H refresher May 14, 28

Confined Space Entrant Course May 17 - 18
Confined Space Rescue May 25 - 28

DBC JHSC Refresher June 9
Distance Learning

DBC Part 2
Distance Learning June 29 - 30

First Aid May 3 - 4

Contact Us with your training needs training@safetyscope.net

Workplace inspection campaign launches in COVID-19 hotspots

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61062/workplace-inspection-campaign-launching-in-covid-19-hotspots>

The Ontario government has launched a series of zero-tolerance workplace safety inspections in sectors and regions hardest hit by COVID-19, beginning April 9 with warehouses, food processors and manufacturers in Peel and Halton Regions.

This month, starting on April 9th, officers were checking for compliance with COVID-19 health and safety requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA) to ensure appropriate physical distancing, screening, and masking. It was only the start. There will also be increased inspections and enforcement across the province that will include:

Enhanced education and outreach to the construction sector, a robust and expanding program for rapid antigen screening for COVID-19 in construction, along with a zero-tolerance approach to enforcement of COVID-19 safety requirements on construction projects.

Continued risk-based inspections of farms employing temporary foreign workers, including working closely with Service Canada and local public health units to coordinate inspections and share information.

Inspections in Peel and Halton Regions to carry out a campaign in retail outlets that are permitted to be open, including big-box stores were also carried out. These inspections focused on enforcing the COVID-19 safety requirements and violations may result in fines up to \$750 for individuals and \$1,000 for businesses. In addition, officers were helping retailers understand the new requirements under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, to bring them into compliance, including the selling of only essential items. The government will work with local enforcement personnel to enforce and bring retailers into compliance where necessary.

We are in lock down now but these inspections will be continuing. If a violation is more serious, a person can be charged with failing to comply with an order under the acts. If convicted, the court can impose fines as high as \$100,000 for individuals, and directors and officers of a corporation can be fined up to \$500,000. Both could also receive terms of imprisonment of up to one year. The maximum fine for a corporation on conviction of an offence is up to \$10 million.

Job Hazard Analysis COVID-19 (Construction)

The internet can be a wonderful resource. It lead us to the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) is the recognized voice of the heavy construction industry in Manitoba.

As you may know, the work undertaken by the construction industry is considered an essential service and as such the industry is permitted to work during the current COVID-19 restrictions. Given the urgency of stepped-up COVID restrictions and that our industry has been allowed to continue to work, it is critical that all our companies of the need to be diligent in implementing and following COVID-19 prevention protocols.

This web site offers wonderful links for employers but the one we focused on was a completed Job Hazard Analysis for Construction.

Download the [JHA here](#) and review all of the steps, potential exposures and the Recommend Safe Job Procedures.

Have you identified all of the exposures?

Have you implemented all of the Safe Job Procedures?

In the Courts

Review the lists below and click on the link to know more if these hazards could occur in your workplace.

Apr 20, 2021 Critical Injuries - Fall from Heights - [MTN Construction Inc., fined \\$60,000 Fine](#)

A worker fell 21 feet to the ground, sustaining injuries. Workers had not been given site-specific training on formwork procedures nor had they been trained on where and how to properly tie off their fall protection equipment on this job site.

MTN Construction Inc. failed to ensure that the measures and procedures prescribed by section 31(1) of the regulation were complied with at the workplace, contrary to section 25(1)(c) of the act. This is an offence pursuant to section 66(1) of the act.

Apr 7, 2021 Critical Injuries - Fall from Catwalk - [James Dick Construction Limited fined \\$65,000](#)

A worker fell into a quarry when a catwalk gave way. Inspection of the catwalk after the incident showed that the steel in the floor grating, toe board and handrails had deteriorated. The catwalks at the Ramara quarry had previously been identified as requiring maintenance.

James Dick Construction failed as an employer to ensure the measures and procedures prescribed by section 54(1)(a) of the regulation were complied with, contrary to section 25(1)(c) of the OHSA. This is an offence contrary to section 66(1) of the act.

Mar 29, 2021 Critical Injuries - Struck By - [Great Lakes Copper Ltd., fined \\$75,000](#)

A worker from a temporary help agency was injured after being struck by tubing that slid as it was being moved.

There was a standard operating procedure (SOP) for picking straight stock, and the workers had been trained on this SOP. However, the SOP did not address the step of adding a cinch strap to bundles being lifted, despite the fact that the schematic in the SOP shows a cinch strap on a bundle.

Section 25(1)(c) of the Act provides that an employer shall ensure that "material, articles or things required to be lifted, carried or moved, shall be lifted, carried or moved in such a way and with such precautions and safeguards, including protective clothing, guards or other precautions as will ensure that the lifting, carrying or moving of the material, articles or things does not endanger the safety of any worker."

Great Lakes Copper failed to ensure that the measures and procedures prescribed by the Reg. 851 S45 were complied with at the workplace, contrary to S 25(1)(c) of the act.



Occupational Health & Safety Consultation

April 21, 2021 As part of its obligations under the RRCBA, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is conducting a Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) of these proposed amendments. A RIA is a process of identifying and assessing the incremental benefits and costs of regulations and non-regulatory alternatives.

The ministry is interested in whether this proposal would result in savings or higher costs to business, or whether there would be no change. The ministry will consider this information as part of the proposal and the associated RIA.

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) is consulting on new or revised occupational exposure limits (OELs) based on the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) recommendations for 2018 and 2019. The MLTSD is also proposing to:

- Align the current OELs for silica in Regulation 833 – Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents (Reg. 833) and O. Reg. 490/09 – Designated Substances (O. Reg. 490/09) under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) with the limits recommended by the ACGIH.
- Align the current OELs for hydrogen sulfide in Reg. 833 with the limits recommended by the ACGIH.
- Adopt the 2019 version of CSA standard CAN/CSA-Z180.1:19, Compressed breathing air and systems in Reg. 833, O. Reg. 490/09 and O. Reg. 278/05 – Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations (O. Reg. 278/05).

Q&A WSIB Reporting Obligations for Businesses [\(Link\)](#)

My employee was tested for COVID-19. Is this considered receiving health care for the purposes of reporting to the WSIB?

Yes. If an employee has had a COVID-19 test, the WSIB considers that they have received health care.

If the employee tests positive for COVID-19 and tells you that they believe they contracted COVID-19 in the workplace, you are required to report the illness to the WSIB, even if you feel that the employee did not contract it at work.

If the employee tests negative for COVID-19, you are not required to report the illness to the WSIB.

My employee contracted COVID-19, but I don't know if they contracted it at work. Do I have to report the illness to the WSIB?

Yes. If an employee has tested positive for COVID-19 and tells you that they believe they contracted COVID-19 in the workplace, you are required to report the illness to the WSIB, even if you feel that the employee did not contract it at work.

You also have an obligation to report an employee's COVID-19 (they have a diagnosis/positive test or symptoms of COVID-19) when you have reason to believe there was a potential workplace exposure. For example:

- other employees in the workplace have tested positive for COVID-19; or
- there was a known or suspected contact source for COVID-19 from whom the employee could have contracted it
- Additionally, you are required to report the illness if the WSIB has informed you that a claim has been set up based on a Worker's Report of Injury/Disease (Form 6)

Do I have to report a claim if my employee was exposed to COVID-19 while at work, but they are not ill at this time?

If someone does not have a diagnosis or symptoms of COVID-19, you are not required to report the illness/file a Form 7 and they should not file a claim.

Joint Health and Safety Training (In Class and Distance Learning)

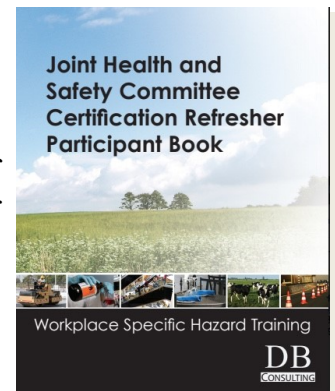
In general, your joint health and safety committee certification is valid for 3 years after the successful completion of an approved JHSC Part 2 training program.

You must successfully complete a refresher program within three years of the date of certification, or the date of successfully completing a refresher program, to keep your certification valid.

Safetyscope can help with:

- Both in class and distance learning using Dwight Barratt Inc. approved Joint Health and Safety Refresher training courses.
- Both in class and distance learning using Dwight Barratt Inc. approved Joint Health and Safety Part 2 training courses.
- In class using Dwight Barratt Inc. approved JHSC Part 1 training courses.

Contact us if we can be of assistance.



Safetyscope's Public Training Sessions

With our COVID-19 procedures in place, Safetyscope is now holding regular public training sessions in Working at Heights, Working at Heights Refresher and Confined Space Awareness.

If your organization requires any additional courses, please with your training needs at training@safetyscope.net.

Safetyscope Continuing to Maintaining Registration as an OWWCO Training Provider

These courses meet the criteria in subsection 29(4) of O.Reg. 128, Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts. On Completion of training all participants will receive a certificate of completion with corresponding CEU Value.

1. Working at Heights	.7 CEU
2. WHMIS 2015	.4 CEU
3. TDG	.4 CEU
4. Working in Confined Spaces Rescue Level	2.8 CEU
5. Confined Spaces Attendant Non Entry	1.3 CEU
6. Confined Spaces Advanced Entrant	.7 CEU
7. Confined Spaces Attendant Refresher	.7 CEU
8. Confined Spaces Rescue Refresher	.7 CEU
9. Standard First Aid	1.4 CEU
10. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	.4 CEU
11. Spill Response	.7 CEU
12. Trenching Hazards	.4 CEU



Safetyscope is a TSSA Approved Training Provider

Safetyscope is an approved provider for